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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 1873

Annual Report on the Social and Economic
Progress of the People of

SIERRA LEONE, 1937

*(For Reports for 1935 and 1936 see Nos. 1757 and 1829
respectively (Price 2s. od. each).)*

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE AND HISTORY.

Geography.

The territory comprising the Colony and Protectorate of Sierra Leone is about the size of Ireland (27,925 square miles) and lies between the 6° 55' and 10° 00' parallels of north latitude and the 10° 16' and 13° 18' meridians of west longitude. The portions administered strictly as Colony are the Sierra Leone Peninsula, Tasso Island, the Banana Islands, York Island, and the township of Bonthe on Sherbro Island. The total area amounts to some 256 square miles.

Freetown, the capital, is situated at the northern extremity of the Peninsula on a fine natural harbour which affords good anchorages close to the shore for the largest ships. The greater portion of the Peninsula is mountainous and well wooded, the conical peaks, of which the highest is Picket Hill (2,912 feet), being visible for great distances at certain seasons of the year.

The Protectorate (27,669 square miles) is well watered by a network of rivers and streams, the general direction of flow being from north-east to south-west. Most of the rivers have wide estuaries; and, although none of them is navigable for ocean-going steamers, several of them provide useful waterways for lesser craft, particularly during the wet season.

If the mountainous peninsula be excepted, the Colony and Protectorate as a whole may be described generally as being flat and low-lying in the south and west and broken and elevated in the north and east, where altitudes of over 6,000 feet have been recorded in the Loma and Tingi mountains. The nature of the vegetation varies considerably. South of the 8° 30' parallel of north latitude dense bush country (originally tropical forest) is as a rule encountered; but this gives place as one travels northwards to more open or "orchard bush" country.

Climate.

The seasons may be divided into wet and dry, the former commencing in May and lasting until October. The rains are as a rule ushered in during the latter part of March and April by a series of tornadoes. Similar phenomena, though as a rule of a less violent nature, are experienced towards the end of the wet season. The dry north-easterly "Harmattan" wind usually blows at intervals during the December—February period, visibility being thereby greatly restricted owing to the fine dust which it is believed the Harmattan carries down with it from the Sahara. During this period hot days and cool nights are the rule.

The shade temperature at Freetown varies during the year from about 65° to 95° Fahrenheit. The average minimum and maximum may be placed at 74° and 87° respectively.

The average annual rainfall at Freetown over a forty-year period amounted to 152 inches. This figure is based on observations made at Tower Hill at a point some 200 feet above sea-level. July and August are as a rule the wettest months.

History.

Sierra Leone, which has been known to voyagers and historians for many centuries, first became a British settlement in the latter part of the eighteenth century. The settlement was established, at the instance of a Society for the Abolition of Slavery from which sprang the Sierra Leone Company, in order to make provision for a large number of slaves who had found their way to England after the American War of 1782, and also for such slaves as might be recaptured by British ships operating against the slavers. A strip of land was acquired on the north of the Sierra Leone Peninsula, and on this site the

first colonists were landed in May, 1787. These were augmented in 1792 by a large party of Africans (freed slaves who had fought for the English in the American War of Independence) from Nova Scotia. Later, in 1800, about 550 Maroons—originally slaves who fled from their masters in Jamaica and on surrender were conveyed to Nova Scotia—were brought to Sierra Leone, and allotted lands. Similar treatment was subsequently accorded to the “Liberated Africans” who were captured slaves brought in by His Majesty’s ships.

For the first few years of its existence the Colony suffered many hardships and privations through famine and disease, and was attacked three times from land by the Temnes and once from the sea by a French squadron.

On 1st January, 1808, the settlement became a Crown Colony.

Chiefly owing to slave-dealing by native chiefs and European adventurers in the neighbourhood of Freetown, the English settlement soon found it necessary to intervene in the affairs of the hinterland, and from time to time various treaties were made with the surrounding chiefs by which certain lands were ceded to the Crown. By this means the Crown Colony was gradually extended. Several missions were also sent to more distant chiefdoms with the view to opening up trade with the interior; these were often helpful in settling inter-tribal wars, and led to an extension of British influence over the territory now embraced in the Sierra Leone Protectorate.

From 1822 to 1827 the Governors of Sierra Leone held the title of Governor-in-Chief of the West African Settlements, and in this capacity were required to visit the Gold Coast and the Gambia. It was within this period, on 21st January, 1824, that Governor Charles MacCarthy was killed in a battle against the Ashantis at Assamako in the Gold Coast. In 1827 the Gold Coast Settlements were alienated and handed over to the African Company of Merchants, but owing to reports as to connivance with the slave trade, were again placed under the Sierra Leone Government in 1843. Further changes were made in 1850 when the British territories in the Gold Coast were made a separate Government for a second time, but in 1866 the Imperial Government constituted once more what was termed the Government of the West African Settlements, comprising Sierra Leone, the Gambia, the Gold Coast, and Lagos, and the Governor of Sierra Leone became the Governor-in-Chief. Eventually a new Charter, dated 24th July, 1874, effected the separation which exists at the present time.

In 1895 an agreement for the demarcation of the northern boundary between the British and French spheres of influence and interests was ratified, and in 1896 the hinterland of Sierra Leone was declared a Protectorate and divided into administrative districts.

The year 1898 was marked by an insurrection in the Protectorate as the result of the imposition of a house tax. The resulting military operations were brought to a successful conclusion early in the following year, and since that date the Protectorate has remained peaceful.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

Constitution.

The Dependency of Sierra Leone consists of two parts, of which one is Colony and the other Protectorate.

The Colony of Sierra Leone is what is generally, if not very accurately, spoken of as a Crown Colony as opposed to a self-governing Colony. Its constitution is to be found in the following Prerogative Instruments:—

(1) Letters Patent passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, dated the 28th day of January, 1924.

(2) Instructions passed under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet and dated the 28th day of January, 1924, as amended by additional Instructions dated the 19th day of January, 1929.

(3) The Order of the King in Council, entitled the Sierra Leone (Legislative Council) Order in Council, dated the 16th day of January, 1924, as amended by Orders of the King in Council dated respectively the 27th day of June, 1927, the 21st day of December, 1928, and the 29th day of June, 1931.

So far as the Protectorate of Sierra Leone is concerned, the Constitutional Instrument under which it is governed is the Order of the King in Council, entitled the Sierra Leone Protectorate Order in Council, 1924, dated 16th January, 1924, passed by virtue of the powers conferred by the Foreign Jurisdiction Act, 1890.

The Government of both the Colony and Protectorate is administered by a Governor and Commander-in-Chief (who in Sierra Leone is also a Vice-Admiral) appointed by Commission under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet.

The Executive Council ordinarily consists of five members, namely, the officers performing for the time being the duties of the Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General, Colonial Treasurer, the Director of Medical Services, and the Commissioner of the Northern Province of the Protectorate.

The Legislative Council consists—

(1) of the Governor as President;

(2) of official members—viz., the members of the Executive Council, the Commissioner of the Southern Province of the Protectorate, the Comptroller of Customs, the Director of Public Works, the Director of Education, the General Manager of the Railway, and the Director of Agriculture;

(3) of nominated unofficial members, of whom there may not be more than seven. Of these nominated members three must be Paramount Chiefs of the Protectorate. Of the remaining four, one represents general European interests in the community; the other European nominated member is appointed after consultation with the Chamber of Commerce. The remaining two nominated members represent African interests;

(4) of three elected members, of whom two are elected by the Urban and one by the Rural Electorate District of the Colony.

Unofficial members hold their seats for five years, and nominated unofficial members are eligible to be re-appointed for a further term not exceeding five years.

There is power vested in the Governor to appoint persons to be extraordinary members upon any special occasion and to make provisional appointments on a vacancy in the seat of a nominated unofficial member.

The Governor presides over the Legislative Council, and questions therein are decided by a majority of votes, the Governor having an original vote as well as a casting vote.

It should be noted that the Legislative Council of Sierra Leone (like those of the Colonies of the Gambia and Kenya) has the power of legislating for the Protectorate as well as for the Colony, and that, in spite of the powers vested in the Governor and Legislative Council, the Letters Patent and the Sierra Leone Order in Council, 1924, expressly reserve to the Crown the power of legislating by Order in Council for the Colony and Protectorate, respectively.

Political Administration.

For administrative purposes Sierra Leone is commonly, though as will be seen later, not accurately, spoken of as being divided into hard-and-fast divisions—namely, Colony and Protectorate.

The Colony is British territory acquired by purchase or concession under treaties entered into from time to time with native Chiefs and tribal authorities, ranging in date from 1807, when the first valid cession of the Peninsula was made, till 1872, when a portion of Koya or Quiah, previously ceded to the Crown, was re-ceded to the Chiefs and people.

COLONY.

For administrative purposes the Colony may in fact be divided into two parts—

- (1) Colony administered as such.
- (2) Colony administered in every respect as Protectorate.

The part of the Colony administered as such consists virtually of the whole of the Peninsula of Sierra Leone, with the adjacent Tasso and Banana Islands, of the town of Bonthe on Sherbro Island, of the Turtle Islands and York Island. It is composed within three Districts—

- (1) The Police District of Freetown.
- (2) The Headquarters Judicial District.
- (3) The Sherbro Judicial District.

Police District of Freetown.—The Police District of Freetown consists of the north-western portion of the Peninsula, and it is bounded on the south and south-west by the Adonkia Creek, and a line drawn from its source to a point between Allen Town and Grafton and from thence along Hastings Creek to the Rokell River.

This District, which is defined by Section 52 (a) of the Magistrates' Courts Ordinance, 1924, contains, in addition to the city of Freetown, the villages of Kissy, Wilberforce, Wellington, Gloucester, Leicester, Regent, Bathurst, Charlotte, Lumley, and other smaller hamlets. Before 1931 the whole Police District of Freetown was under the general supervision of the Commissioner of Police, and no Political Officer visited the outlying villages. These villages have now been placed under the Commissioner of the Headquarters Judicial District for administrative (though not judicial) purposes.

Freetown Municipality.—The city of Freetown itself is governed by the "City Council of Freetown" pursuant to and in accordance with the Freetown Municipality Ordinance, 1927; but various so-called Tribal Headmen in Freetown have certain administrative powers over the natives of the aboriginal tribes who reside in the capital.

Headquarters Judicial District.—The Headquarters Judicial District, which is defined by Section 52 (b) of the Magistrates' Courts Ordinance, 1924, consists, roughly speaking, of the remainder of the Sierra Leone peninsula, together with the Banana Islands.

The Headquarters Judicial District is in charge of a District Commissioner with his headquarters at Waterloo, the largest town in the District. Unlike the Commissioner of all the other Districts, the Commissioner of the Headquarters District is subordinate to no Provincial Commissioner and corresponds direct with the Colonial Secretary.

For purposes of house-tax collection and expenditure, the Freetown Police District and the Headquarters District are grouped together under one Advisory Board, constituted on 1st January, 1924.

Sherbro Judicial District.—The Bonthe District consists of Sherbro Island, Turtle Islands, York Island, and the four following chiefdoms on the mainland, viz., Timdale, Bendu, Cha, and Nongoba Bullom, all of which were ceded to the British Crown by various treaties at different times. It is administered by a District Commissioner who is subordinate to the Commissioner of the Southern Province of the Protectorate, and it should be noted, as will be seen later, that whereas the whole of the Police District of Freetown and the Headquarters Judicial District are administered as Colony, by far the greater part of this District is administered as Protectorate.

The town of Bonthe on Sherbro Island and York Island are the constituents of the Port of Sherbro, by far the most important commercial and maritime centre in Sierra Leone after Freetown itself. The population of these two places consists largely of natives of the Colony and of Europeans engaged in commerce. The mode of administering Bonthe, York Island, and the small islands adjacent thereto, which together constitute what is called the Sherbro Judicial District, is on this account precisely similar to that employed in the Headquarters Judicial District of the Colony.

Outside the town of Bonthe, however, the whole of Sherbro Island has a largely aboriginal native population, divided into two chiefdoms—namely, Dema and Sittia—and the four mainland chiefdoms have a similar native population.

Administration on purely Colony lines being impracticable, the whole of the Bonthe District outside the narrow limits of the Sherbro Judicial District is, along with certain other parts of the Colony, administered exactly as is the Protectorate.

Parts of the Colony treated as Protectorate.—Those parts of the Colony which are, for all administrative purposes, treated as Protectorate, consist, in the first place, of a strip of coast line of varying width acquired at different periods before the proclamation of the Protectorate for purposes of Customs control.

Secondly, there is one other area which is in fact Colony administered as Protectorate; this is the Baki Loko territory, acquired by a treaty of 1825.

PROTECTORATE.

The hinterland of Sierra Leone, an area of some 26,000 square miles, was declared a British Protectorate in 1896, and the necessary legislative steps were taken to provide for its administration.

For some years it was, for political purposes, divided into a varying number of Districts and in 1919 it consisted of the following five Districts, viz., Koinadugu, Karene, Railway,

Ronietta and Northern Sherbro. Each District was controlled by a District Commissioner, holding direct communication with the Secretariat in Freetown, aided by a small staff of Assistant District Commissioners, to each of whom he allocated such duties or such geographical spheres of activity as he thought fit. This division of the Protectorate was found, however, to be defective in practice, as it led to much duplication of work, and to the lack of both uniformity and continuity of policy. In order, therefore, to remedy these defects, as well as to bring the political division of the country into closer accord with the racial distribution of its inhabitants, the Protectorate was, in 1920, divided into three provinces, designated respectively the Northern, containing more or less the area formerly known as the Karene and Koinadugu Districts; the Central, taking in the Railway District and part of the Ronietta District; and the Southern, being composed of the Northern Sherbro District and parts of the Ronietta and Railway Districts. Each Province was placed in the charge of a Provincial Commissioner. The Provinces were divided into Districts of varying areas, each of which was controlled by a District Commissioner responsible, in his administrative capacity, to the Commissioner of the Province in which his District lay.

By the Protectorate (Administrative Divisions) Order in Council, 1930, which came into force on 1st January, 1931, those three Provinces were reduced to two, namely the Northern and Southern Provinces; and the Order in Council under reference sets out:—

- (a) the respective boundaries of these two Provinces;
- (b) the Districts of which they consist; and
- (c) the native chiefdoms comprised in each of those Districts.

Each district is sub-divided into chiefdoms, owned and administered by their respective tribal authorities, i.e., their Paramount Chiefs in association with the elders or principal men of the respective chiefdoms.

The division of the Protectorate into Provinces and of the Provinces into Districts is arbitrary, and has been dictated by considerations of administrative efficiency, due regard being paid to the necessity for including in one District, where possible, chiefdoms comprising one tribe or section of a tribe. The boundaries of the chiefdoms, however, are fixed by prehistoric tradition and native custom, and, although disputes constantly arise as to sections of inter-chiefdom boundaries (indeed the settlement of boundary disputes forms an important part of the work of a Political Officer), the Government does not interfere with chiefdom boundaries unless invited to do so. The chiefdoms vary in size from the considerable area of Tambaka

Yobanji in the Kambia District to the smallness of the Yabai Krim in the Pujehun District, i.e. from approximately 500 square miles to about 20 square miles.

Each chiefdom is entirely separate and independent, and although there is natural cohesion between chiefdoms composed of the same tribe and situated in the same locality, no Paramount Chief can claim pre-eminence over other Paramount Chiefs of the same tribe, either by reason of the area of his chiefdom, the wealth of his people, or the antiquity of his house. At any meeting of the Paramount Chiefs of a District, pride of place would naturally be given to those whom age or, more especially length of reign entitled to that honour at the hands of their brother Chiefs, but the conferring of that mark of respect implies no relationship of superiority and subordination. The several chiefdoms are well defined and have no official inter-relationship whatever, with this exception, that independent and distinterested Paramount Chiefs of the same tribe may be called upon to act as assessors in the settlement of any "palaver" which the Tribal Authority of a chiefdom find themselves unable to settle unaided. They may be invited to act in this capacity either at the instance of a Provincial or District Commissioner, or at that of the Paramount Chief in whose chiefdom the dispute has arisen.

The Tribal Authority of a chiefdom is the sole owner of the land within that chiefdom, and this principle of native law and custom, which is uniform throughout the Protectorate, has been consistently and actively supported by Government.

The Courts of the Paramount Chiefs are dealt with in Chapter XIII.

Functions of Political Officers.—The functions of a Political Officer are three-fold in nature: administrative, judicial, and departmental; but his departmental duties are so wedded to those that are purely administrative that it will be convenient to consider those duties together and separately from those of a judicial nature.

In his administrative capacity the District Commissioner (and, *a fortiori*, the Provincial Commissioner) is the representative of the Colonial Government in that portion of the Protectorate committed to his administrative charge. He is the guide, philosopher, and friend to the Paramount Chiefs, the Tribal Authority and the people. He is at once the support of the recognized native authority, the upholder of its prestige, and the protector of the poor against oppression by their rulers. He is the mouthpiece of the Government, and the interpreter and demonstrator of its policy.

A District Commissioner's departmental duties in reality form a part of his administrative duties. He is responsible for the collection of Government revenue in his District, by (a) house

tax, and (b) the issue of licences for stores, hawkers, vendors of spirit, fire-arms, etc. He is the propagandist officer who is the coadjutor to the technical officers of the Agricultural and Forestry Departments; he supervises sanitation on behalf of the Health Department; he oversees the general conduct of the post offices and agencies; he keeps a wary eye on the Customs frontiers and seaboard; he controls the management of the gaols; he advises the Education Department and assists in its propaganda; he supervises the laying out and construction of second-class roads, and the erection of native buildings required for official purposes; he facilitates the progress through his District of any officers whose duties require them to travel through it; in short, he has ancillary duties to perform on behalf of practically every Government Department in the Colony.

The judicial duties and powers of a Political Officer are fully dealt with under Chapter XIII, to which reference is invited.

III.—POPULATION.

Colony.—The total population of the Colony according to the census of 1931 was 96,422, the racial distributions being as follows:—

<i>Race.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Percentage of Total Population.</i>
African native tribes	36,914	24,869	61,783	64·08
African non-natives—Sierra Leoneans	14,438	18,408	32,846	34·06
Other African non-natives	583	346	929	0·96
Asiatics... ..	309	135	444	0·46
Europeans	308	112	420	0·44
Totals	52,552	43,870	96,422	100·00

Protectorate.—The total population of the Protectorate according to the 1931 census was 1,672,058, of which 796,392 were males and 875,666 were females, and consisted of African native tribes, African non-natives, Asiatics and Europeans.

The total European population of the Protectorate was 231, of which 173 were males and 58 were females. Of this total 142 were British, other Europeans numbering 89, in which were included 34 Americans.

The total Asiatic population of the Protectorate was 772—577 males and 195 females. These included 754 Syrians, 16 Arabs, and 2 Indians.

African non-natives in the Protectorate numbered 3,265, 1,765 being males and 1,500 females. These included Sierra Leoneans for the most part and a few West Indians, Liberians, American Negroes, persons classed at the census as Nigerians, Gold Coasters, and Mulattoes. Of the total shown, Sierra Leoneans numbered 3,046.

Nationalities and Tribes.

The following table shows the various nationalities and tribes amongst the African population of the Colony and Protectorate, and the number in each case at the 1931 census.

<i>Nationality or Tribe.</i>	<i>Colony.</i>	<i>Protectorate.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Percentage of Total African Population.</i>
Sierra Leoneans	32,846	3,046	35,892	2·04
Other African non-natives ...	929	219	1,148	0·07
Temne	21,431	472,258	493,689	27·95
Mende	10,258	568,788	579,046	32·78
Limba	6,957	138,714	145,671	8·24
Loko	5,228	57,152	62,380	3·52
Bullom and Sherbro	4,634	139,101	143,735	8·15
Susu	2,391	43,210	45,601	2·58
Mandingo	1,988	14,081	16,069	0·91
Fula	1,330	15,523	16,853	0·96
Kono	604	68,521	69,125	3·92
Gallinas (or Vai)	673	19,865	20,538	1·16
Koranko	157	44,203	44,360	2·52
Kissi	170	34,810	34,980	1·32
Yalunka	73	16,066	16,139	0·92
Krim	41	20,639	20,680	1·18
Gola	—	8,509	8,509	0·50
Gbande	—	1,131	1,131	0·07
Fanti	125	—	125	0·01
Joloff	181	—	181	0·01
Sarakuli	122	—	122	0·01
Kroo	4,481	—	4,481	0·29
Bassa	512	—	512	0·04
Miscellaneous	427	5,219	5,646	0·33
Totals	95,558	1,671,055	1,766,613	—

Geographical Distribution.—The main geographical distribution of the African population was as follows:—

	<i>Colony</i>			
	<i>Freetown.</i>	<i>other than Freetown.</i>	<i>Protectorate.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Sierra Leoneans	20,970	11,876	3,046	35,892
Other African non-natives ...	784	145	219	1,148
Tribes	32,919	28,864	1,667,790	1,729,573
Total African population ...				1,766,613

Migration.

During the year 1937, 224 Syrians entered and 129 left the Colony by sea. In all there were 2,558 immigrants and 2,279 emigrants. The total numbers of European immigrants and emigrants other than British subjects were 192 and 178 respectively.

Births and Deaths.

The figures for (a) births and (b) deaths for the Colony for 1937 are as follows:—

(a)	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Crude Birth-rate.</i>
	1,202	1,204	2,406	22·9

(b)	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Crude Death-rate.</i>
	1,420	1,148	2,568	24·5

Registration is not compulsory outside Freetown and therefore little reliance can be placed on the figures. They show a slight decrease in the total births and in the crude birth-rate. The crude death-rate is somewhat higher than in 1936.

Infantile Mortality—

<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000</i>
314	279	593	246

The rate remains high and to some extent this is due to the doubtful value of the figures of registration.

The Census of 1931 showed the population of the Colony to be 96,422 and the mid-year estimate (1937) for Freetown alone was 63,758.

The population of the Protectorate was recorded as 1,672,058 in 1931.

Marriages.

The numbers of marriages as shown by the registers for 1937 are:—

	<i>Free- town.</i>	<i>Village areas. (Colony).</i>	<i>Head- quarters District. (Colony).</i>	<i>Bonthe (Colony).</i>	<i>Protec- torate.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Christian ...	157	42	8	3	39	249
Civil ...	1	—	—	—	—	1
Mohammedan ...	36	2	—	—	—	38
	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	194	44	8	3	39	288
	—	—	—	—	—	—

Only figures for Christian marriages are available for the Protectorate. There is no registration of marriage by “Native Custom.”

IV.—HEALTH.

General Health of the Population.

Malaria was more prevalent.

No case of acute rheumatism was recorded. Chronic rheumatism was a little lower in incidence.

External injuries were more numerous and this may be due to the increase in mining, shipping, building and other constructional activities.

Avitaminosis shows a very large increase above the 1936 figure. This is probably due to a fuller realization of its more widespread nature than was formerly suspected; and, in consequence, to a more careful diagnosis of those cases of the disease which presented signs of a mild degree.

A comparative table for 1936 and 1937 is appended.

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>1936.</i>	<i>1937.</i>
Malaria	7,942	10,232
Yaws	8,202	9,312
Acute Rheumatism	2	—
Chronic Rheumatism	10,671	9,497
Hemiplegia	137	134
Conjunctivitis	1,075	951
Affections of the ear	1,149	1,284
Haemorrhoids	102	99
Lymphadenitis (bubo non-specific)	664	724
Coryza	1,146	1,328
Acute Bronchitis	7,342	6,351
Chronic Bronchitis	5,542	7,358
Asthma	245	203
Caries, pyorrhoea, etc	1,916	1,826
Gastritis	502	395
Dyspepsia	4,420	4,074
Diarrhoea and enteritis	1,716	1,793
Ankylostomiasis	405	395
Hernia	1,104	994
Constipation	9,701	8,649
Acute Nephritis	105	81
Schistosomiasis	98	72
Epididymitis	70	50
Orchitis	249	246
Hydrocele	380	327
Abscess	774	731
Scabies	1,742	1,792
Eczema	327	393
Osteitis	355	417
Arthritis	1,800	1,553
Wounds (by cutting or stabbing instruments)	1,205	1,350
Fracture	238	251
Other external injuries	4,639	6,169
Asthenia	895	845
Syphilis	769	566
Gonorrhoea	2,755	3,172
Avitaminosis	909	2,186

Mortality.

The figures subtended apply to Freetown including Cline Town and they cannot be taken as more than moderately accurate. The Protectorate figures have not been given.

The number of deaths registered in Freetown on medical certificates was 494 corresponding to 33·1 per cent. of total registrations. The absence of a Medical Officer or Dispenser in a number of areas in the rest of the Colony renders the figures from such places outside Freetown unreliable.

Principal Causes of Deaths—1937.

Causes.	Freetown (including Cline Town), 1,459.	
	Number.	Percentage.
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	310	21·9
Dysentery, Diarrhoea and Enteritis	127	8·7
Senility	108	7·4
Malaria	106	7·2
Tuberculosis (all forms)	85	5·8
Prematurity	82	5·6
Nephritis	52	3·5
Chronic Rheumatism	38	2·6
Valvular disease	35	2·4
Paraplegia	23	1·5
Congenital Debility	17	1·1
Convulsions	16	1·1

Provision for Treatment.

The Government hospital facilities within the Colony consist of the Connaught Hospital, Freetown, and the Government Hospital in Bonthe. A comparison of the figures in the past two years is given below.

<i>Connaught Hospital :—</i>						1936.	1937.
In-patients	...	...	...	...	...	2,658	2,512
Out-patients—new cases	...	...	...	...	...	18,193	17,676
Subsequent attendances	...	...	...	...	...	136,896	108,832
Operations	...	...	...	...	...	2,100	2,128
<i>Bonthe Hospital :—</i>							
In-patients	...	...	...	...	...	460	466
Out-patients—new cases	...	...	...	...	...	3,884	4,080
Subsequent attendances	...	...	...	...	...	11,589	17,054

The Protectorate Hospital Pujehun is the last of the “ old type ” remaining.

Particulars of Protectorate Hospitals of new type are as follows :—

Protectorate Hospital Bo, Southern Province—

						1936.	1937.
In-patients	...	...	...	...	...	424	354
Out-patients—new cases	...	...	...	...	...	3,586	4,046
Subsequent attendances	...	...	...	...	...	16,328	16,206

Protectorate Hospital Moyamba, Southern Province—

In patients	...	...	...	...	222	163
Out-patients—new cases	...	...	...	...	3,317	2,460
Subsequent attendances	...	...	...	...	3,658	4,344

Protectorate Hospital Makeni, Northern Province—

In-patients	...	...	...	...	298	239
Out-patients—new cases	...	...	...	...	4,583	4,479
Subsequent attendances	...	...	...	...	14,628	11,692

Protectorate Hospital Port Loko, Northern Province—

In-patients	...	...	...	...	103	205
Out-patients—new cases	...	...	...	...	3,360	4,105
Subsequent attendances	...	...	...	...	18,253	12,540

Protectorate Hospital Kailahun was opened towards the close of the year.

In the Connaught Hospital there is a decrease in subsequent attendances. Those for Bonthe Hospital show slight increases in both in-patients and new out-patients. Subsequent attendances show a large increase. A decrease is recorded in the in-patients at Bo and an increase in the new out-patients.

The records for Makeni Hospital show decreases in the number of in-patients and in the subsequent attendances. In the case of Port Loko Hospital both in-patients and new out-patients have increased in number while those patients attending for subsequent treatments are substantially fewer.

Dispensaries.—There are now eight in the Colony and fourteen in the Protectorate where two more are under construction (at Blama and Panguma).

The Ante-natal, Maternity and Child Welfare work is being maintained.

				<i>Connaught Hospital and Maternity Centre, Oxford Street.</i>		<i>Princess Christian Mission Hospital.</i>	
				1936.	1937.	1936.	1937.
Ante-natal attendances	...	...	...	5,510	6,414	763	904
Labour cases admitted	...	...	...	607	537	23	25
Health visits	...	...	...	10,189	9,325	5,001	3,383
Infant Welfare clinic attendances	...	...	...	13,120	13,601	3,407	4,180

Public Health Note.

The progress of sanitation is being maintained.

Smallpox.—A further decrease in the incidence and number of deaths is to be noted. One death occurred in a total of 134 cases. The number of those vaccinated during 1937 is 37,952, which is an increase of 7,870. The decrease in incidence would appear to mark the ending of the epidemic which commenced in 1932.

Nine of the total cases took place in Freetown where the death, alluded to above, also occurred.

<i>Area.</i>	<i>Number of cases discovered.</i>	<i>Number of Deaths.</i>	<i>Number of Vaccinations.</i>
<i>Colony Districts :—</i>			
Freetown	9	1	21,622
Headquarters Judicial ...	18	—	1,912
Bonthe	4	—	878
<i>Protectorate Districts :—</i>			
<i>Northern Province—</i>			
Port Loko	4	—	1,798
Karene	—	—	332
Bombali	13	—	2,028
Koinadugu... ..	—	—	469
Tonkolili	—	—	331
<i>Southern Province—</i>			
Kailahun	5	—	950
Kenema	1	—	256
Kono	—	—	230
Bo	11	—	2,252
Moyamba	55	—	2,586
Pujehun	14	—	871
Sherbro	—	—	1,437
	134	1	37,952

Of the nine cases shown against Freetown, three cases were imported.

V.—HOUSING.

Freetown and Colony.

Colony.—The majority of the wage-earning population of Freetown and the larger towns of the Colony occupy timber-framed houses with concrete or stone and mortar dwarf walls roofed with corrugated iron sheets or palm-tile thatch. The floors are either of concrete or of native timber boarding, and window openings are fitted with glazed casements or boarded hinged shutters according to the means of the occupant.

The artisan class, as a rule, own their houses, whereas the unskilled labouring class usually rent one or two rooms in a compound for themselves and their families.

There are no Building Societies in Freetown, but a scheme inaugurated by the City Council enables houseowners and prospective houseowners to borrow money for the purpose of improving existing buildings and erecting new ones. Under this arrangement approximately thirty-nine new houses have been erected at a cost of about £15,733.

In addition, a building scheme has been introduced by a firm of timber merchants in Freetown. Under this scheme, prospective owners of the type of house property costing from £250 to £600 can erect buildings under the supervision of the firm both expeditiously and inexpensively, payment being made by an initial small deposit followed by monthly instalments.

In connexion with this scheme, Government has laid out and has leased to the firm a small model residential area which enables intending houseowners to obtain (by assignment from the firm) leases of building plots at a moderate ground rent and with an option to purchase the freehold within 20 years.

Protectorate.

In the Protectorate the great majority of houses of the wage-earning classes are built of wattle and mud daub with palm-tile or grass thatch roofs—and this form of construction is frequently also adopted by Europeans both official and unofficial. In the Protectorate, as a rule, the occupier is the owner, though in the larger towns there is always a floating population which rents the accommodation required.

VI.—NATURAL RESOURCES.

Minerals.

Minerals occurring in economic quantities in Sierra Leone are gold, diamonds, iron ore, platinum and probably chromite and ilmenite. Exports of the first five minerals were made during the year.

Production for 1937 is compared with that for the previous year in the following table:—

		<i>Gold : crude and unrefined gold bullion (ozs. troy).</i>	<i>Platinum coarse crude (ozs. troy).</i>	<i>Diamonds (carats).</i>	<i>Iron ore exports (tons).</i>	<i>Chromite exports (tons).</i>	<i>Estimated value. £</i>
1936	...	40,764	484	616,200	566,595	—	1,248,695
1937	...	39,151	308	913,401	633,985	729	1,666,102

The area of ground under mineral development at the end of the year consisted of 68,711 acres under mining lease and concession titles and 173,006 yards of streams under mining right titles together with a further 97,197 yards of stream under permission to mine prior to grant of title. Exclusive Prospecting Licences were held over 974 square miles of country, and during the year 45 Prospecting Rights were issued.

Gold.—It is likely that the production of alluvial gold reached its peak during 1936. The output for the year 1937 reached 39,151 ounces of an estimated value of £251,766 which is a

slight decline on the previous year's record of 40,722 ounces. Gold has as yet only been produced from alluvial sources, but prospecting for lode has been continued.

Attention has recently been turned to the possibility of dredging in the bigger rivers and an amount of work has been done in this connexion.

No new areas have been discovered but mining continues actively in the districts previously worked—namely Tonkolili (lately parts of Koinadugu and Bombali) and Karene in the Northern Province and Bo, Kailahun and Kono in the Southern Province.

Diamonds.—This industry continued in a very satisfactory state. The output for the year was 913,401 carats which considerably exceeds that for 1936 which was 616,200 carats. A large proportion of the diamonds are of gem quality and reserves are considerable. As a result future prospects are indeed bright.

Diamonds are being mined in Kono District.

Iron Ore.—The output for the year was 633,985 tons which shows an increase over last year when the production was 566,595 tons. The company concerned is erecting a concentration plant at Marampa for dealing with powder ore and work on loading facilities for handling the concentrates at Pepel is now in progress.

A survey for the proposed extension of the railway from Marampa to the Tonkolili area was completed some time ago, but the construction has not yet commenced and it may be some time before the enormous Tonkolili deposits are exploited.

Platinum.—A few individuals were engaged in a small way. The output amounted to but 308 ounces against 484 ounces for last year. It is being mined in the Colony.

Chromite.—An Exclusive Prospecting Licence has been granted in respect of this mineral and tests are being carried out. A quantity of chromite was shipped in order to test the quality of the ore and to explore the market for it. It is too early yet to give any idea of the prospects.

The chromite deposit is in Kenema District.

Ilmenite.—An interest was shown in the ilmenite sands in the Colony and a prospecting and drilling campaign was undertaken more particularly with a view to locating economic deposits of platiniferous ilmenite sands. Results were not encouraging.

General.—Gold mining is carried out by companies, syndicates and individuals. The alluvial deposits in the streams of gold and of platinum are very suitable for individual operators. The diamonds are mined by a company which holds a monopoly for their exploitation. The base metal deposits require large scale capital interests for their development and working.

The haematite deposits at Marampa are mined under a concession granted by the Tribal Authority of the Marampa Chiefdom. Diamonds, gold and platinum are mined under mining lease titles and mining right titles. The chromite was taken from ground the subject of an exclusive prospecting licence and exported by permission under the Minerals Ordinance.

Mining leases may be of several kinds dependent on the nature and mode of occurrence of the mineral in respect of which they are taken up and the mineral rent, period of tenure and allowable area vary according to the kind of lease. Mining rights are of one kind only and are intended for ground the mineral bearing qualities of which are not such as to justify a mining lease. Permission to mine may be granted pending the grant of title to a mining lease or mining right. Water rights may be taken up to allow of the working of mining properties.

For mining leases, mining rights and water rights, mineral rents and water rents respectively are payable to the Crown and such rents from properties in the Protectorate are placed to the credit of a Protectorate Mining Benefits Trust Fund: surface rents and compensation for surface damage are payable to and apportioned between the landowner and Paramount Chief of the chiefdom in which the mining property is located.

Mining is restricted in certain areas.

There was no recorded local consumption of the minerals produced.

Agricultural Produce.

The total area of Sierra Leone is 27,925 square miles. The general system of agriculture is that known as "shifting cultivation" and it is impossible to estimate with any accuracy the area under annual cultivation. The chief crop is rice, both upland and wetland. Others of importance are cassava, "fundi" (*Digitaria exilis*), groundnuts, sweet potato, and ginger.

Formerly a large proportion of the country was covered by high forest, but not more than 2-5 per cent. is now under this type of vegetation. Some 40-50 per cent. is under secondary bush, varying from 3 to 20 years of age, according to population density and marketing facilities, which are the chief factors determining demand for farming land; this type of bush is the source of the main export crops, chiefly oil palm, kola, ginger and cacao. 35-45 per cent. is under orchard bush and grass; about two-thirds of this is farmed by the shifting cultivation method; the remainder, although affording grazing to some extent, is unsuitable by reason of the soil conditions for any agricultural uses. Land which is swampy, either permanently or in the rainy season only, accounts for some 10-20 per cent.

of the total area; at present about one-tenth is under annual rice cultivation. *Raphia* palms are common in many swamps not cleared for rice and provide piassava for export and many products for local use.

Along the coast fishing is an important local industry and cured fish from this source are an important item of food in all parts of the country enjoying good transport facilities. The production of salt is a minor industry in some of the estuaries.

The area devoted to mineral production is relatively small, and future development is unlikely to interfere seriously with agricultural lands.

As to future development and improvement of land suitable for agriculture: apart from swamps there is practically no unused land which can be profitably brought under cultivation. An increasing population, settled conditions and improved marketing facilities have brought about a demand for agricultural land which has resulted in the shortening of the fallow (bush regrowth) period. The bush, and with it soil fertility, is rapidly deteriorating and the area required annually to maintain production is increasing steadily. The heavy rainfall, and attendant soil erosion and leaching, have so far prevented the evolution of any satisfactory system of intensive farming. If the destruction of bush is not checked it is obvious that not only will food production suffer but the Colony's chief exports, oil palm products, kola and cocoa, will be in great danger.

Future development will therefore depend largely on the satisfactory conservation of bush—it is thought that a regrowth period of about 10 years between croppings will be necessary—and the fuller utilization of swamp land for food production, chiefly rice. It has already been stated that only about one-tenth of the existing swamp land is utilized, for rice in the rainy season and, where conditions are favourable, for sweet potato and vegetable crops in the dry season. Farmers are being encouraged and assisted to develop the swamps; steady progress is being made and there is reason to believe that about 50 per cent. of the swamp area can be utilized by present methods and practically all where and when economic pressure makes drainage and irrigation profitable.

During the latter part of the year under review agricultural surveys were started which comprise the Colony Peninsula and the extensive coastal swamp area between the Ribbi and Bagru rivers in the Southern Province.

FOOD CROPS.

Rice.—The 1937 crop was slightly above normal and it is not anticipated that there will be any shortage in 1938. In this connexion it should be clearly understood that the principal rice

harvest extends roughly from October to January and that the effect of any one season is not felt on the market till the following year. It is thought that while the season and the upland farms (which depend entirely on the season) were normal, the swamp areas showed an increase in production and it is estimated that the market recently created by the rapid growth of the mining industry will be supplied by local production.

It is quite impossible to give more than the roughest estimate of the annual rice production since no statistics exist, but judging from the population, and the place that rice fills in the diet of the people, it is estimated that production in a normal year approximates to 175,000 tons of paddy.

Efforts are being made to increase the production of this crop in the wetland areas in order to relieve the pressure on the dry-land farms for rice. In the Scarcies swamp area the Government has introduced improved varieties of rice which give bigger yields of good quality rice. G.E.B. 24, which was mentioned in the 1936 report, is increasing rapidly and has become established in the market as the foremost of the local rices. It commands a small premium.

The rice cleaning mill which started in 1936 at Cline Town milled 11,896 bushels that year. In 1937 some 29,863 bushels were milled and milling was only restricted by difficulties with regard to parboiling and storage. The proper cleaning of rice is much appreciated by the consumers and a substantial premium can be obtained for properly cleaned rice.

As anticipated in the last Annual Report there was a shortage of rice during 1937 and Government had to take measures to meet the situation. The Director of Agriculture was made Food Controller, the price of rice was controlled, the duty was taken off imported rice and the railway freight from Freetown into the Protectorate was reduced. Government imported a quantity of rice and the local firms followed suit. As a result of Government control the situation was met without any real hardship to consumers and all cornering and profiteering was avoided. Some 4,204 tons of rice were imported (just about enough to feed the mining population) and it is interesting to observe that even in a bad year Sierra Leone has become practically self supporting.

Food Crops other than rice.—The production of these, of which the most important are digitaria, cassava, groundnut and sweet potato, was not hindered by the season, and the total production was probably slightly higher than normal to make up for the small 1936 rice crop. In any year when the early rains are such that a poor rice crop seems probable, every effort is made by farmers to increase the production of other foods.

EXPORT CROPS.

Palm Kernels.—76,776 tons of palm kernels valued at £884,812 were exported in 1937. The falling off in quantity was undoubtedly due to the falling off in price, producers holding back their produce in the latter part of the year hoping for a rise. Practically the whole of the kernels harvested are exported.

Ginger.—2,384 tons valued at £97,622 were exported in 1937. This is the highest quantity of recent years and was undoubtedly due to the high prices prevailing for this commodity. It is expected that the large amount exported in 1937 will adversely affect prices in 1938. Very little ginger is used locally; this is regarded as an export crop.

Piassava.—3,392 tons of piassava valued at £43,609 was exported. This is not the largest quantity ever exported in a year but it is the highest value yet reached, and is due to the great improvement in quality effected by the propaganda and inspection of the Agricultural Department. Piassava is an export crop and very little is used locally.

Kola.—There was a small revival in the Kola trade. 2,248 tons valued at £60,504 were exported and this is the highest quantity and value since 1931. It is thought that this increase in trade is due to improved conditions in Nigeria to which country a great deal of the kola is exported. Kola is grown both for consumption and for export. Probably as much is consumed locally as is exported.

Cocoa.—At the beginning of the year there was every indication of a record export but the rapid fall in prices during the second half of the year so discouraged production that only 265 tons valued at £8,830 were actually exported. The greater part of the cocoa produced is exported.

Coffee.—The growth of coffee for export is still in its infancy but it is slowly spreading. In 1936 some 14 tons valued at £324 were exported while in 1937 this export had increased to 58 tons valued at £1,201. Coffee is consumed partly in the country and part is exported. Probably at least 75 per cent. of this crop was exported in 1937.

Livestock.

There are as yet no statistics concerning the livestock of this country. Cattle farming is carried out in a small scale in the Northern Province. A large proportion of the cattle (of which something like 5,000-6,000 are slaughtered annually in the Colony and Protectorate) is imported from French Guinea. Sheep and goats are bred on a moderate scale throughout the country and pigs to a small extent. The value of the export in hides amounted to £4,854 in 1937. Government has secured the services of a Livestock Officer to investigate the possibilities

of improving the numbers of the various forms of stock in the Dependency.

General.

The production of food is entirely in the hands of individual agriculturists, the majority of whom are farmer owners. Each farmer, with the assistance of family labour, produces food for his own consumption. In the more backward parts of the country the farmer grows a diversity of crops and is practically self sufficient for all food supplies, but where transport facilities are good there is a tendency to concentrate on the most profitable crops and obtain other food requirements by barter or with the money from sales. There is as yet no export of local food crops, although an export in rice is expected in the near future, and the production of more food than can be consumed locally is unknown. The cultivation, or collection and preparation, of agricultural products for the export market is also in the hands of individual agriculturists, and the money realized by the sale of these commodities is largely utilized for the payment of taxes and the purchase of imported articles.

All products are sold in the open market. The more fortunately placed producers can sell direct to the commercial firms and get a fair price, but a big proportion are obliged to deal with small petty traders and get a poor return for their labour. It is clear that there are distinct possibilities for organized co-operative marketing especially in connexion with the important export crops.

The introduction of suitable co-operative legislation is expected in 1938. In anticipation of this two farmers' marketing societies have been started in the Scarcies area where rice is produced on an intensive scale. In 1937 the membership of these societies was 56 and nearly 250 tons of paddy were sent to the Government mill in Freetown for cleaning and disposal.

Production for food and export is entirely in the hands of the indigenous peoples. The Syrian community, numbering about 1,400, have in the past restricted their activities to trading, but are now showing an interest in the production of bananas for export, and it is possible that in 1938 a Company will be formed to promote this new and potentially very important industry.

Employment of agricultural labour under Europeans is restricted to about 300 men engaged annually on the experimental and demonstration stations of the Agricultural Department. The knowledge gained in this way by labourers who subsequently return to work in their villages is definitely beneficial. The most striking results, however, are obtained through the district propaganda and instruction afforded by the Agricultural Officers and the Instructors working under them. By this

means planting material of new crops and improved indigenous varieties has been widely disseminated. In addition farmers have been taught how to choose sites for, and plant and maintain economic crops, chiefly cocoa, coffee and oil palm. A few farmers have also been helped to take up ploughing which is new to this country. It has been found that farmers directly assisted in this way afford a demonstration, and diffuse knowledge, which their neighbours are quick to adopt. The value of the instruction and supervision of the Produce Inspectors cannot be overestimated, resulting, as it has, in a tremendous improvement of the export products, notably palm kernels, palm oil, piassava and ginger.

Forests.

Forestry in Sierra Leone, as elsewhere, performs a dual function: it attempts to protect all existing forest and tries, within the limits of its financial resources, to develop areas capable of development in the existing economic regime.

It is estimated, tentatively, that about 1,500 square miles of true forest remains in the country most of which is tropical rain forest, scattered remnants mostly of a much more extensive forest estate which must have existed in the not distant past. Local agricultural methods, which must have persisted for centuries, have undoubtedly destroyed large tracts of such forest, and settled peaceful conditions are hastening the processes of destruction. Nevertheless, given scientific forest management, it is considered that the area quoted above is sufficient to meet nearly all local timber requirements at the present rate of consumption, but there seems little likelihood in the near future of any available surplus which could bring about a revival of the export trade which flourished until roughly the middle of the nineteenth century. It is curious too that the usual West African export species appear to be largely absent from Sierra Leone. Sawyers will find it difficult to obtain their supplies from outside reserves and exploitation will have to be started in such reserves where it is economically possible.

In 1937 imports of timber according to Customs returns amounted to 1,112,129 super. ft. valued at £16,699. It is impossible to estimate the consumption of sawn timber obtained from outside reserves but in Kenema, in the Kambui Reserve, an exploitation scheme initiated in 1934 by the Forest Department produced during the year 222,274 super. ft. or roughly 20 per cent. by volume of the figure for imported timber. The direct result of this organization has been largely to replace in certain Government Departments, the use of imported by local timber. It is hoped that this work will be extended considerably in the near future.

Less spectacular, but at least equally important if more difficult to appraise, is the protective work done by the Forest Department. About 70 per cent. by area of existing forest reserves in the country may be classed as protection forests. The aims of such reservation are to protect hill slopes from destructive and, in the end, unprofitable agriculture: to prevent erosion: to maintain, so far as is possible, existing climatic conditions: to protect important watersheds and the gathering grounds of the principal streams. There is no reason whatever why reserves primarily protective in function should not be developed economically as well. By careful management this can easily be contrived but limiting factors are ease of communications by road, rail or water and the accessibility of possible markets. Here the habits and relative wealth of the people play an important part. In many parts of the Protectorate mud and wattle houses with thatched roofs are still the rule. There would appear to be little immediate likelihood of such people changing their building methods even if supplies of cheap sawn timber were available.

The area of reserved forest in Colony and Protectorate has now reached at 766 square miles the most inadequate figure of approximately 2·75 per cent. of the total area of country. Plans are being laid which aim at bringing this figure nearer to what experts consider to be the desirable safe minimum for tropical countries which is variously estimated at from 20 to 30 per cent. Reserves in the Colony are on Crown Lands which are therefore available for purposes of Government but in the Protectorate only timber rights over reserved areas are alienated. The land there still belongs to the communal owners and this is recognized by the grant to them of a royalty on all forest produce extracted from the reserves. Farming rights in reserves are respected and the Settlement Courts make allowance for such rights when reserve agreements are negotiated.

Improvement fellings which are silvicultural in aim as well as for utilization, are being carried out in the Kambui Reserve. In certain other reserves regeneration by the taungya method is now being undertaken as extensively as organization of the necessary nursery stocks can be arranged.

VII.—COMMERCE.

An attractive price in the European market for each of the various articles of domestic produce is the chief incentive to an export trade of any importance. The principal articles of produce are palm kernels, palm oil, ginger, piassava and peppers, the leading purchasing countries in 1937 being the United Kingdom, Germany, France, the Netherlands and the

United States of America. Palm kernels accounted for 32 per cent. of the total value of domestic exports in 1937.

The export of minerals (diamonds, raw gold, and iron ore) accounted for 60 per cent. of the total value of domestic exports in 1937. To this percentage diamonds contributed 38, gold 10 and iron ore 12.

Import trade is done with the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, the United States of America, Germany, the Netherlands, Czechoslovakia, Canada and South Africa, some of the principal articles being cotton piece-goods, beer, flour, salt, tobacco, coal, illuminating oil, motor spirit and provisions unenumerated.

Rice, the staple food of the African population, is produced in sufficient quantity to meet the demand; but a noteworthy trade is done in imported articles of foodstuff.

The following table shows the total value of imports, domestic exports and re-exports during the past five years:—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Total Imports.</i>	<i>Domestic Exports.</i>	<i>Re-exports.</i>
	£	£	£
1933	824,882	753,930	30,013
1934	805,170	832,805	179,070
1935	1,214,231	1,556,816	27,018
1936	1,346,646	2,224,918	152,047
1937	1,839,482	2,550,512	23,563

THE PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL IMPORTS FROM EMPIRE AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES RESPECTIVELY DURING 1933 TO 1937 AND THE PRINCIPAL SUPPLYING COUNTRIES.

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
United Kingdom	59·24	58·38	70·17	70·00	69·79
British West African Possessions.	·76	·77	2·87	·36	·55
British Possessions (other).	9·76	18·03	11·02	13·91	14·60
France	1·95	1·45	1·08	·95	·68
Germany	4·06	2·75	2·61	2·64	2·43
Netherlands	·88	·55	·70	·71	·74
United States of America.	10·91	8·59	6·11	4·96	4·15
Japan	5·20	3·57	·76	1·47	1·60
Foreign West African Possessions.	1·20	·12	·41	·30	·71
Other European Countries.	5·09	4·66	3·38	3·46	4·04
Other Countries	·95	1·13	·89	1·24	·71
Totals	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

THE PERCENTAGE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO EMPIRE AND
FOREIGN COUNTRIES RESPECTIVELY DURING 1933 TO 1937
AND THE PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION.

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
United Kingdom ...	54·79	67·12	68·12	61·81	69·07
British West African Possessions.	6·80	3·11	3·08	7·40	2·16
British Possessions (other).	·26	·35	·37	·40	·48
France	·21	·19	·10	·29	·41
Germany	20·62	14·63	11·31	14·86	15·59
Netherlands	11·03	8·34	7·87	11·14	6·33
United States of America.	2·42	2·02	2·46	1·00	2·22
Japan	—	·07	—	—	—
Foreign West African Possessions.	·65	·91	·58	·45	·65
Other European Countries.	2·60	2·99	5·73	2·46	2·87
Other Countries ...	·62	·27	·38	·19	·22
Totals	<u>100·00</u>	<u>100·00</u>	<u>100·00</u>	<u>100·00</u>	<u>100·00</u>

STATEMENT OF THE VALUES AND/OR QUANTITIES OF PRINCIPAL IMPORTS DURING 1936 AND 1937 OTHER THAN BULLION
AND SPECIE, INDICATING THE PRINCIPAL SOURCES OF SUPPLY.

SIERRA LEONE, 1937

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<i>Article.</i>	1936.		1937.		<i>Principal Sources of Supply.</i>
	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	
Beer and ale, stout and porter	115,792	£ 21,469	158,124	£ 29,433	United Kingdom, Eire, Germany.
Biscuits, bread and cakes :—					
Cabin or ships' ...	3,064	5,147	6,899	13,394	United Kingdom.
Fish of all kinds ...	2,039	5,290	4,192	10,529	"
Rice ...	908	578	84,085	46,387	British India.
Flour ...	25,727	19,016	30,911	27,184	Canada.
Salt (common) ...	78,600	18,582	100,521	24,865	United Kingdom.
Sugar ...	14,716	8,478	17,966	11,836	United Kingdom, Czechoslovakia.
Tobacco, unmanufactured ...	1,230,404	47,128	1,619,299	68,646	Canada, Nyasaland, Union of South Africa, United States of America.
Tobacco ...	51,191	} 16,202	67,094	} 19,303	United Kingdom.
Cigarettes ...	204,764		258,986		Union of South Africa, Germany, Netherlands.
Wines, still ...	63,236	14,548	86,943	19,180	United Kingdom.
Coal ...	35,920	45,864	74,104	113,335	Canada, Gold Coast, United States of America, United Kingdom.
Lumber ...	830,643	9,876	1,112,129	16,699	
Apparel :—					
Hats, caps, bonnets, etc....	*	13,645	31,461	13,072	United Kingdom, Japan, Germany.
Singlets ...	†	—	468,013	13,678	Hong Kong, United Kingdom.
Bags and sacks (empty) ...	1,005,804	20,677	1,390,570	29,287	British India.

* Quantity not required by Import List prior to 1937.

† Posted under Apparel, other kinds, in 1936.

<i>Article.</i>	1936.		1937.		<i>Principal Sources of Supply.</i>
	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i> £	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i> £	
Woollen and worsted manu- value factures (all kinds).	—	15,974	—	13,859	United Kingdom.
Implements and tools ... "	—	11,184	—	14,205	"
Machinery, electrical ... "	—	4,203	—	17,256	"
" industrial ... "	—	1,458	—	13,538	"
" mining ... "	—	36,369	—	38,315	"
Metals:—					
Buckets, pails and basins doz.	33,662	10,590	44,273	16,506	"
Corrugated iron sheets ... ton	699	10,489	621	13,055	"
Other kinds ... value	—	43,957	—	56,199	United Kingdom, Germany, Belgium.
Vehicles—motor cars ... No.	140	19,800	99	14,601	United Kingdom, Canada.
Beads ... lb.	77,548	10,697	95,860	13,342	Germany, Czechoslovakia.
Cement ... ton	3,314	8,804	4,777	13,730	United Kingdom.
Medicine and drugs ... value	—	15,367	—	18,463	United Kingdom, United States of America, Germany.
Oil—illuminating ... Imp. gall.	399,389	15,516	491,344	22,794	United States of America, Trinidad.
" Motor spirit ... "	372,065	14,669	461,554	22,353	"
Perfumery ... value	—	10,025	—	14,286	United Kingdom.

THE VALUES AND/OR QUANTITIES OF PRINCIPAL DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS, OTHER THAN BULLION AND SPECIE DURING 1936 AND 1937.

	1936.		1937.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£
Benniseed ton	409	4,991	104	1,662
Cocoa, raw „	301	5,542	265	8,830
Diamonds value	—	725,272	—	1,070,384
Ginger lb.	3,677,072	58,673	5,340,944	97,622
Gold oz. (troy)	38,804	256,139	40,828	269,465
Hides (cattle) tanned lb.	21,516	1,197	27,920	2,029
„ untanned cwt.	411	624	1,032	2,825
Kola nuts cental of 100 lb.	51,539	41,539	50,347	60,504
Palm kernels ton	84,578	810,238	76,776	884,812
Palm oil „	1,223	16,313	2,325	42,238
Peppers... .. lb.	64,812	1,354	45,455	1,093
Piassava ton	3,558	32,777	3,392	43,609
Platinum oz. (troy)	375	3,184	227	2,361
Rice cwt.	4,160	1,418	140	88
Iron ore value	—	262,143	—	325,605
Re-exports (less specie and currency notes) :—				
Wood and timber unmanufactured, other kinds.	—	25	—	1,164
Metals—iron and steel manufactures, other kinds.	—	1,529	—	3,895
Vehicles—Ships and boats mechanically propelled.	—	1,100	—	1,500
„ road, commercial vehicles, etc.	—	—	—	1,430
„ road, private cars	—	3,028	—	2,729
„ air, aeroplane parts	—	—	—	1,550
Goods unenumerated manufactured ...	—	312	—	1,371
Machinery—marine	—	247	—	312
Electrical and telegraphic apparatus :—				
Wireless apparatus :—				
Complete sets	—	—	—	470
Other re-exports	—	12,786	—	8,962

Palm Kernels: The Home market price gradually decreased from £18 8s. in January to £10 18s. 4d. in December and averaged throughout the year £13 10s. as compared with £11 16s. 8d. in 1936.

Shipments to the United Kingdom increased from 25,657 to 29,962 tons. Exports to Germany fell from 33,476 to 33,213 tons, and to the Netherlands from 21,507 to 10,120 tons.

BRIEF STATISTICS OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF COIN AND NOTES DURING 1933 TO 1937.

IMPORTS.

			1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
			£	£	£	£	£
Specie and Currency Notes :—							
Alloy...	...	...	5,523	12,144	82,250	40,075	124,001
Nickel	...	...	—	1,102	1,573	1,405	2,154
Silver	...	...	206	184	3	5,500	—
Currency notes	...		2,045	15,406	3,849	1,276	21,397

EXPORTS.

Specie and Currency Notes :—							
Alloy...	...	...	197	152,480	200	25,720	180
Nickel	...	...	160	240	—	—	—
Silver	...	...	11,350	8,394	11,545	6,800	—
Currency notes	...		—	2,580	1,230	100,500	—

Imports.

The total value of imports into the Colony during the year 1937 amounted to £1,839,582 as compared with £1,346,715 in 1936, being an increase of £492,867.

The following table shows the value of imports by classes during the years 1936 and 1937:—

	1936.	1937.	Increase.
	£	£	£
Class I.—Food, drink and tobacco	231,864	366,195	134,331
Class II.—Raw materials, etc.	67,526	147,171	79,645
Class III.—Articles mainly manufactured	965,374	1,139,428	174,054
Class IV.—Animals not for food, etc.	33,626	39,136	5,510
Class V.—Bullion, specie, etc....	48,325	147,652	99,327
Totals	<u>£1,346,715</u>	<u>£1,839,582</u>	<u>£492,867</u>

Total increase ... £492,867.

Compared with 1936 there were increases in the value of each of the three categories which constitute Class I—"Food" by £96,782, "Drink" by £12,985, and "Tobacco" (mainly unmanufactured) by £24,564.

Commercial coal and lumber were mainly responsible for the increase in Class II, the value being £79,645 more than the 1936 imports.

With few exceptions all items under Class III recorded an increase, particularly building materials—all kinds (£41,490).

The following table shows the commercial imports for home consumption of cotton piecegoods, including velveteen, for the years 1933 to 1937:—

<i>Year.</i>				<i>Quantity.</i> <i>Sq. yds.</i>	<i>Value.</i> £	<i>Duty</i> <i>obtained.</i> £
1933	...	...	...	6,129,891	124,702	24,047
1934	...	...	...	5,638,488	107,740	26,524
1935	...	...	...	14,207,762	297,455	72,593
1936	...	...	...	14,408,232	328,107	76,320
1937	...	...	...	12,897,332	312,308	65,067

The following table shows the value and percentage of the imports from the different countries during the years 1936 and 1937:—

				<i>Value.</i> <i>1936.</i> £	<i>Percentage.</i> <i>1936.</i>	<i>Value.</i> <i>1937.</i> £	<i>Percentage.</i> <i>1937.</i>
United Kingdom	...	...	...	942,746	70·00	1,283,815	69·79
British West African Possessions.				4,882	0·36	10,137	0·55
British Possessions (other)	...	...	...	187,327	13·91	268,631	14·60
France	...	...	...	12,829	0·95	12,417	0·68
Germany	...	...	...	35,498	2·64	44,734	2·43
Netherlands	...	...	...	9,553	0·71	13,551	0·74
United States of America	...	...	...	66,833	4·96	76,273	4·15
Japan	...	...	...	19,754	1·47	29,439	1·60
Foreign West African Possessions.				3,996	0·30	13,085	0·71
Other European Countries	...	...	...	46,592	3·46	74,367	4·04
Other Countries	...	...	...	16,705	1·24	13,133	0·71
Totals	...	...	...	£1,346,715	100·00	£1,839,582	100·00

Exports.

The total value of exports from the Colony during the year 1937 amounted to £2,843,540 (domestic exports being £2,819,977 and non-domestic £23,563).

The following table shows the value of exports by classes during the years 1936 and 1937:—

		<i>1936.</i> £	<i>1937.</i> £	<i>Increase.</i> £	<i>Decrease.</i> £
Class I—					
Food, Drink and Tobacco	...	69,601	171,057	101,456	—
Class II—					
Raw Materials and Articles mainly unmanufactured.		1,900,088	2,379,605	479,517	—
Class III—					
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured.		17,617	19,590	1,973	—
Class IV—					
Animals not for food	...	500	3,643	3,143	—
Class V—					
Bullion, Specie and Currency Notes.		389,159	269,645	—	119,514
Totals	...	£2,376,965	£2,843,540	£586,089	£119,514

The following table shows the value and percentage of the exports to the different countries during the years 1936 and 1937:—

<i>Country.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Percentage.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Percentage.</i>
	1936.	1936.	1937.	1937.
	£		£	
United Kingdom	1,469,276	61·81	1,964,006	69·07
British West African Possessions	175,847	7·40	61,340	2·16
British Possessions (other) ...	9,493	0·40	13,563	0·48
France	6,966	0·29	11,728	0·41
Germany	353,109	14·86	443,346	15·59
Netherlands	264,646	11·14	180,092	6·33
United States of America ...	23,748	1·00	63,189	2·22
Japan	—	—	—	—
Foreign West African Possessions.	10,750	0·45	18,448	0·65
Other European Countries ...	58,575	2·46	81,520	2·87
Other Countries	4,555	0·19	6,308	0·22
Totals	£2,376,965	100·00	£2,843,540	100·00

The following table shows the quantity and value of palm kernels exported during the last five years:—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
	Tons.	£.
1933	64,083	472,824
1934	68,655	360,780
1935	78,019	583,645
1936	84,578	810,238
1937	76,776	884,812

State of Trade.

The following comparative table summarizes the state of trade in the Colony during the past five years:—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Total Imports (less specie and currency notes).</i>	<i>Re-exports (less specie and currency notes).</i>	<i>Net Imports.</i>	<i>Domestic Exports.</i>	<i>Excess of net Imports over Domestic Exports.</i>	<i>Excess of Domestic Exports over net Imports.</i>	<i>Customs Duty on Imports and Exports.</i>	<i>Tonnage of Shipping entered and cleared.</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
1933	817,108	18,306	798,802	753,930	44,872	—	371,686	3,509,799
1934	776,334	15,376	760,958	832,805	—	71,847	313,528	4,269,310
1935	1,126,556	14,043	1,112,513	1,556,816	—	444,303	441,966	4,794,868
1936	1,298,390	19,027	1,279,363	2,224,918	—	945,555	491,694	4,979,189
1937	1,691,930	23,383	1,668,547	2,550,512	—	881,965	531,556	5,473,202

TOURIST TRAFFIC.

The first cruise ship to arrive in Sierra Leone was the *Laconia*, carrying 331 tourists, on the 28th February, 1928. In 1937 four vessels visited Freetown and approximately 1,282 tourists came ashore.

The season ranges from December to April.

The amount spent in the Colony by tourists is not large. £233 was obtained by the Railway department in 1937 for excursions to Waterloo, a village 21 miles distant from Freetown and it is estimated that the motor transport services benefited to the extent of £200.

Cars are available for drives to Hill Station, a residential quarter six miles from Freetown at a height of 850 feet, and to Lumley Beach, a drive of seven miles, where sea bathing may be indulged in.

Conditions in Sierra Leone are not entirely suitable for tourist traffic. Cruising vessels do not remain in the harbour overnight and the visit ashore is therefore of short duration and is made in intense heat. In view of these facts it appears unlikely that there will be any appreciable increase in the number of cruising vessels and tourists visiting this Colony.

VIII.—LABOUR.

Mineral Industry.

An average number of 14,093 Africans was employed in mining and prospecting throughout the year and additional numbers were engaged in such accessory services as police work, building and construction, etc.

In general the labour supply was adequate. The company working on the chromite deposits was hampered at the start of its operations by a poor supply of labour. As its name became known, however, men volunteered and after three or four months the supply was sufficient. With this same company a strike of short duration occurred when the daily wage labourers demanded an increase in pay from ninepence to a shilling a day. The dispute was settled although the demand was not granted. With this exception relations between labour and the mines staffs continued to be satisfactory.

No recruiting methods were necessary there being normally sufficient men applying for work on the spot. There were the usual seasonal contractions in labour supply during the planting and harvesting periods.

In the gold and platinum industries the introduction of tributing has been very successful with the native who in the majority of cases prefers tributing to daily wage work. In these industries more than half the labour was so engaged.

The popularity of the method often decided the manner of working in favour of tributing.

Other unskilled labour was employed on a daily wage basis, and the rate of pay was either fixed or made dependent on the completion of a task.

One company augments the wage with a free daily issue of rice, and other companies by accumulating stocks of rice ensure that rice shall be available at a reasonable price to the labour throughout the year.

Agricultural Labour.

The 1931 census estimated the total population at 1,768,480. The number of non-Africans is negligible. Adult able-bodied males number about 450,000 and of these about 95 per cent., with the assistance from other members of their families, are engaged in agriculture as a whole or part-time occupation. There are no agricultural estates or plantations and the labour on farms is of a family nature, assisted to a small extent by domestics and casual labour which does not receive any cash payment but is usually given lodging, some produce, and often the use of farm land.

At present the supply of labour for agricultural pursuits is adequate. Recent mining activities have withdrawn some 14,000 labourers, and their dependants, from farming, and this has created a demand for 4,000 to 5,000 tons of rice, in addition to other foodstuffs. In 1937 this demand was met by importing rice, but in future years it is expected that local production will increase sufficiently to make importation unnecessary.

Forestry Labour.

The Forest Department is not a large employer of labour. At Kenema average figures for 1937 were:—

	<i>Average monthly numbers.</i>	
Sawyers (skilled and semi-skilled).	50	Usually work in groups of three which earn on an average £3 per month: this divided, £1 10s. or roughly 1s. 3d. per day to the headman: the other £1 10s. is divided between the other two men probably in the proportion 9d. and 6d. per day. Good gangs can earn up to as much as double the above amount.
Labourers	45	Paid at standard Protectorate rate of 8d. per day.

To obtain supplies of labour at Kenema has proved increasingly difficult and the monthly average has fluctuated between 26 and 79. Work is arduous, sometimes dangerous and during the heavy rains not a little irksome. It is not surprising therefore that labourers tend to go elsewhere in search of more congenial work. Chiefly because of shortage of labour, but for other reasons as well, the Department has been compelled to consider seriously the question of mechanization of all the processes of exploitation. A power-driven saw-mill, fed by mechanized transport, would relieve local labour of much of the drudgery of present work at Kenema. It is to be hoped that conditions will then prove more attractive.

Plantation work at Tabe and elsewhere gave employment to a monthly average of 51 labourers but here the variation was between 19 and 190. Such work is essentially seasonal in its incidence and sometimes labourers were only employed for a few days in one month of the year. With the exception of two senior nurserymen at 1s. 9d. per day and nine junior nurserymen at 1s. 6d., labour was usually paid at the basic Protectorate rate of 8d. per day.

IX.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Wages.

Artisans (Public Works).—In Freetown during 1937 Public Works artisans were paid from 2s. to 6s. a day for journeymen and from 1s. to 2s. 6d. for improvers. In a few exceptional cases certain journeymen were paid at the rate of 8s. 8d. a day.

In the Protectorate rates of pay varied from 8d. to 1s. for improvers and 1s. to 5s. for journeymen.

Labourers (Public Works).—In Freetown the rate of pay of ordinary unskilled labour was from 1s. to 1s. 6d. a day. In certain cases unskilled labour employed on special work in which they had acquired some proficiency were paid slightly higher rates, the maximum being 2s.

In the Protectorate the rates of pay for labourers varied from 8d. to 1s., while the rate of pay for headmen or gangers varied from 10d. to 2s. 6d. per diem.

The wages of artisans outside Government employ are practically the same as those paid by the Government departments.

Cost of Living.

Rice, the only staple food, was obtainable at from 6s. to 10s. a bushel.

X.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Education.

Education is still governed by the Ordinance of 1929 and the Schedule of Rules for the Colony (1929) and the Protectorate (1930).

In the Colony the Protestant infant and primary schools are conducted by school committees as the result of the amalgamation of denominational schools. Of these there are 42. There are also two Government, three Roman Catholic and three Mohammedan schools. The managers of these schools, i.e., the owners of the school buildings or their representatives, are theoretically responsible for the upkeep of the buildings, but Government pays the salaries of teachers and provides equipment. All school fees are paid into Government revenue. There are at present 50 schools of this type in the Colony, with 7,447 pupils on their rolls and an average attendance of 5,776.

There is one Government secondary school for boys in the Colony and three assisted schools, which receive capitation and equipment grants; grants are also paid to qualified teachers. There are four assisted girls secondary schools. In these schools there are on the rolls:—

Boys.—49 primary, 173 preparatory and 240 secondary pupils.

Girls.—325 primary, 156 preparatory and 138 secondary pupils.

There are also two assisted schools in the Colony which provide vocational training—The Sir Alfred Jones Trades School (wood-working) for boys, and the A.M.E. Girls Industrial School (Domestic Science). Courses in carpentry and printing form part of the curriculum at the Albert Academy, one of the assisted boys' secondary schools.

Apart from assisted schools there are two unassisted boys' secondary schools, a preparatory girls' school, and a number of unassisted primary schools.

Domestic science forms an important part of the curriculum in the education of girls. Special examinations are held annually by independent examiners and certificates and diplomas awarded to successful students. Training for nurses is given both at the Connaught (Government) Hospital and the Princess Christian (Mission) Hospital.

There is a scheme whereby a number of scholarships are awarded to enable boys and girls from primary schools to attend approved secondary schools.

Higher education in Arts and Theology is provided at the Fourah Bay College, a missionary institution affiliated to Durham University.

Government finances schemes for the training of male teachers in connection with Fourah Bay College and for the training of female teachers at the Women Teachers' Training College, Wilberforce.

An Agricultural Institute at Mabang, managed by the Trustees of the S. B. Thomas Bequest, provides training in agriculture for a limited number of youths from the Colony.

In the Protectorate there are three Government schools; there are also 94 assisted mission schools, which are eligible for capitation, building and equipment grants; teachers' salaries being paid by the missions and supplemented in the case of qualified teachers only by grants from Government. These schools are attended by 7,916 pupils, consisting of 6,009 boys and 1,907 girls.

There is no school in the Protectorate covering the complete secondary course, but the Bo Government School and two or three mission schools have classes of secondary grade.

The Union College at Bunumbu trains teachers and evangelists for the Protestant Missions.

There is also an assisted (Catholic) Industrial School at Mobe, which gives instruction in the trades of boat-building and wood and metal working.

A notable development in Freetown is the quality of the singing in schools. A special music master teaches singing on correct lines, and very good results have been achieved. An annual singing competition is held, at which the greatest keenness is displayed.

Instruction in physical training is supervised by an officer specifically appointed for the purpose. His activities at present are limited to the schools and training colleges in Freetown and the vicinity.

Welfare Institutions.

The methods of caring for the poor and sick and the burial of deceased destitute persons remained the same during 1937 as in the previous year. Friendly Societies abound.

During 1937 a site was chosen at Kissy for the erection of a building to be known as the King George VI Memorial Hostel for the housing of diseased paupers.

The Memorial Plaque was unveiled by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Henry Moore, K.C.M.G., during Coronation Celebrations.

Mental Home.

There is a mental home at Kissy, about five miles from Freetown.

XI.—COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORT.

Roads.

Colony.—The principal means of communication between the smaller towns and villages of the Colony is by non-motorable roads, but there is a motor road from Freetown to Waterloo (20 miles) which connects several villages on the route with the capital of the Colony. Freetown is connected to Lumley Village ($6\frac{1}{4}$ miles) and to Hill Station (5 miles) by bitumen-surfaced laterite gravel roads, and a laterite gravel road three miles in length from Hill Station affords facilities for the use of motor transport to the population in and around the village of Regent. There are 51 miles of roads and streets in the capital of the Colony of which about 32 miles are motorable. The principal streets are surface treated with bitumen and are provided with concrete surface-water drains and channels.

Protectorate.—The total mileage of maintained roads in the Protectorate is $831\frac{1}{2}$. The roads are surfaced with laterite and are for the greater part 16 feet wide.

The majority of the bridges are built with concrete abutments and piers, and steel joists carrying a timber deck, but there still remains a number of timber beam and trestle bridges which are being reconstructed to a standard type, with a 9 feet wide deck, as their condition requires and funds permit. In addition to the above Government-maintained roads, there are chiefs' roads, constructed and maintained by the tribal authorities concerned, which are not usually open to heavy motor vehicles and are sometimes not available for motor traffic in the wet season.

Ferries are used in cases where the width of rivers has rendered the construction of bridges financially impracticable. There are fifteen such ferries in the Protectorate, the pontoons being constructed of timber with one exception which has a steel pontoon. The pontoons are connected by steel wire rope bridles to a wheeled traveller moving on a steel cable-way which is slung between towers on the banks. The pontoon is impelled across the river partly by the action of the current and partly by the boat crew hauling on a light steel hand-line also slung between the banks.

Railway.

The total length of open line at the end of 1936 was 311 miles, with a gauge of 2 ft. 6 ins.

Capital expenditure on the railway to the 31st December, 1937, was £1,428,727.

The total revenue of the railway was £207,676, which shows an increase of £7,433 over the figure for the previous year. The revenue includes £950 for contributions to the Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Fund.

The expenditure other than capital for the year was £198,761, which shows an increase of £11,160 as compared with 1936. This total includes £57,693 for loan charges, pensions and gratuities, cost of services rendered by other Government departments, and expenses in connexion with the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme. Working expenditure amounted to £141,068 and gross receipts £207,696.

Passenger journeys in the year were 633,499, an increase of 92,509 over the previous year, and the tonnage carried was 76,298 against 76,887 in 1936.

	1913.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Receipts per train mile	9 6·11	11 7·13	10 10·71	8 5·39	8 10·93	8 7·88	8 11·03	9 7·69	10 3·16	10 8·65
Working expenses per train mile ...	*5 1·09	10 4·34	11 4·17	8 9·48	8 3·86	8 1·98	7 8·82	6 10·82	6 7·90	7 3·39
Passengers carried ...	438,388	367,602	258,834	252,472	408,149	373,161	377,123	449,513	540,990	633,499
Tonnage carried ...	62,084	75,473	70,949	61,859	66,024	58,866	59,938	71,628	76,887	76,298

* Exclusive of pensions, gratuities, etc.

The rolling stock in use during the year consisted of 39 locomotives, 70 coaching vehicles and 304 goods vehicles.

Motor Bus Service.

The motor bus service is under the direction of the General Manager of the Railway. This service runs on two routes, viz., route 1 to Hill Station European Settlement through Wilberforce, a distance of five miles, and route 2 to Lumley Beach, where there is an excellent golf links, $6\frac{1}{4}$ miles from Freetown, on the western sea-board of the peninsula of Sierra Leone. The fleet in 1937 consisted of five passenger vehicles and two lorries.

The total number of passengers carried was 253,261 and the gross receipts amounted to £3,198.

The staff employed was:—

European ...	...	...	...	1
Africans ...	...	...	...	19
Total ...				20

Postal Business.

There was considerable increase in postal business during 1937. Postal business was conducted from 17 post offices and 49 postal agencies, money-order business from 23, and postal order business from 51 offices.

The total revenue collected was £34,660 as against £24,989 in the previous year. Of this amount, £25,318 was derived from direct postal revenue, £7,696 from Customs duty on parcels, and £1,646 from the sale of stamps for Inland Revenue purposes.

As regards correspondence, the estimated number of articles of all kinds, including 104,100 registered articles, dealt with during the year was 2,271,900, as compared with 2,209,400 in 1936. Money-order transactions increased from 3,843 (value £22,103) in 1936 to 4,348 (value £25,020) in 1937.

The total number of postal-orders issued during the year was 64,308 valued at £40,576, and the number of postal-orders paid was 52,386 valued at £33,447, as compared with the previous year, viz., orders issued 57,726 valued at £35,448; orders paid 46,836 valued at £29,974.

The parcel post transactions showed an increase, 39,093 parcels being handled as against 36,516 the previous year.

In the cash-on-delivery parcels service (with Great Britain only) 12,190 parcels were received (value £22,107) as compared with 10,526 (value £19,104) in 1936.

Telegraph System.

The internal telegraph system is maintained by the railway. The main system runs from Freetown to Pendembu and Bauya to Kamabai with various subsidiary country lines throughout the Protectorate—totalling $789\frac{3}{4}$ miles.

Telephones.

The Freetown, Hill Station and Cline Town telephone service comprise $392\frac{3}{4}$ miles with a traffic control telephone line, Water Street to Pendembu (up country) of 455 miles making a total of $848\frac{3}{4}$ miles.

Broadcast Relay Service.

The Broadcast Service was inaugurated in May, 1934, and is owned and controlled by Government.

It is a relay service which operates on the rediffusion principle. The equipment, consisting of rectifying apparatus, two short-wave battery operated receivers and six power amplifiers, together with studio and gramophone equipment, is of the latest design. The power amplifiers are capable of giving a combined undistorted output of 300 watts.

Directional reflector aerials are used and are erected 500 ft. above sea level.

The station relays as a standard programme the whole of Transmissions II and IV in the Empire programme from Daventry on wavelengths of 13, 16, 19, 25 and 31 metres. All transmissions from Daventry are receivable at good signal strength in normal circumstances.

The number of subscribers up to date is over 750.

Cables and Wireless.

Cable and Wireless, Limited, maintain a cable office and a low-power wireless station in Freetown; the latter is used mainly for communicating with shipping.

Increase in the knowledge of wireless telegraphy and recent improvement in the manufacture of wireless installations of moderate cost have led to considerable numbers of applications on the part of private individuals for licences under the Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance, 1924, and the holders of such licences have little difficulty in picking up any station in Europe and American broadcasting on suitable short-wavelengths.

Shipping.

There was an increase of one hundred and nine (109) in the number of steam and motor vessels entering in the Colony during the year and in tonnage 254,658. Of a total of 2,740,408 tons entered, 64·66 per cent. was British, 9·81 German, 3·08 Italian, 6·14 French, 5·95 American and 4·20 Netherlands.

The following shipping lines call regularly at Freetown on their way to or from other West African ports:—

<i>Line.</i>	<i>Destination.</i>	<i>Passenger or Cargo.</i>	<i>Frequency of Calls.</i>	<i>Mail contract.</i>	<i>Other feature of the contract, and other remarks.</i>
Elder Dempster Lines, Limited, Liverpool.	Liverpool ...	Passenger	26 (1 each 2 weeks) plus supplement- ary end of summer.	Liverpool and West Afri- can Colonies	Colony pays a proportion of the subsidy for the con- veyance of mails between Liverpool and West Afri- can Colonies. Cargo vessels also have pas- senger accommodation usually for 12.
"	" ...	Cargo	26 (1 each 2 weeks).		
"	London ...	"	13 (one each 4 weeks).		
"	Continent ...	"	18 (1 each 3 weeks).		Extra services to United Kingdom, Continent and United States of America put in as inducement offered.
"	New York ...	"	13 (one each 4 weeks).		Passenger services also ac- cept cargo at this port.
"	Canada—South Africa.	"	12 (1 monthly)		
"	Coast Ports ...	Passenger	26 (1 each 2 weeks).		
"	" ...	Cargo	52 (1 each week) 1 every 4 weeks.		
"	Hull ...	"	Twice monthly.		
United Africa Company Steamers	Liverpool and West African ports.	2nd Class cargo boats			Limited passenger accommo- dation.
Navigazione Libera Triestina (Italian Line).	Genoa ...	2nd Class cargo boats.	Once a month.		
Sierra Leone Development Co....	United Kingdom	Iron Ore	About once every 6 weeks.		
American West African Line, Inc., New York.	New York ...	Passenger and cargo	18 round voy- ages calling outward and Homeward	Mail contract with U.S. Govern- ment out-	

Inc., New York— <i>cont.</i>	...	C.S. Our ports ...	Passenger and cargo	5 Round Voy- ages calling outward and Homeward 12 months.	Mail contract with U.S. Government outwards.
Holland West-Afrika Lijn, Am- sterdam	...	Le Havre, Am- sterdam and Hamburg.	Passenger	2 monthly (outward).	Mail contract with Netherlands Government.
"	"	Rotterdam, Am- sterdam and Hamburg.	Cargo	2 monthly (Homeward).	
"	"	Coast ports up to Spanish Guinea.	Cargo	1 monthly (outward).	
"	"	Coast ports up to Spanish Guinea.	Cargo	1 monthly (Homeward).	
Woermann Linie	...	Southampton, Boulogne s/mer, Hamburg and Continental ports.	Passenger	2 monthly.	Mail contract with Spanish Government.
"	...	Hamburg and Con- tinental ports.	Cargo	1 monthly.	"
"	...	Coast ports ...	Passenger	1 monthly.	"
"	...	Coast ports ...	Cargo	1 monthly.	"
Cie. Generale de Navigation a vapeur (Cie. Fabre), and Cie. Marseilles de Navigation a Vapeur (Cie. Fraissinet) com- bined services.	...	Marseilles	Passenger and cargo.	2 monthly (1 Homeward and 1 out- ward).	Mail contract with the Sierra Leone Government.
"	"	Marseilles	Passenger	1 every 3 weeks (average).	
Societe Navale de l'ouest Char- geurs Reunis.	...	Coast ports	Cargo (com- bined ser- vices).	1 monthly (average).	

The lower reaches of all the rivers of Sierra Leone are navigable for boats and canoes and a considerable traffic is carried on by these means. The most commonly used craft are open sailing boats with a carrying capacity of about four tons and motor launches with a capacity of about ten tons.

There are four ports of entry in the Colony, viz., Freetown, Bonthe, Sulima and Mano Salija.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Canalization of Streams.—The year's programme consisted of street drainage. Pademba Road was reconstructed and a portion of Circular Road between the Government Model School and Pademba Road. Pavements were constructed on either side of Pademba Road and it is hoped that their provision will be a safeguard to pedestrians and leave an unobstructed road for vehicular traffic.

Peninsula Circular Road.—Construction of this road was commenced in October. It consists of 43 miles of new road and 18 miles of reconditioning, the latter being the existing road between Waterloo and Freetown. The earthworks were found to be considerably heavier than anticipated due to the enormous amount of norite rock encountered and by the end of the year only four miles of road had been completed. When completed the road will be the most picturesque in the Colony.

European Hospital, Hill Station.—Construction was commenced in April and was carried on throughout the year. The building embodies many changes from those previously constructed in the Colony. The walls are of concrete bricks and all windows and the majority of doors are of steel. Water borne sewerage and consequently modern sanitary fittings are being supplied. When completed the hospital will house 18 beds and an isolation block of two wards is also to be constructed to house two beds.

New Maternity Hospital.—Construction of this building was commenced in October. The building will be of concrete bricks and steel doors and windows will be used wherever possible. When completed the hospital will house 40 beds and accommodation will be provided for midwives.

Electric Light and Power.

An electric light and power scheme put into service in April, 1928, is in operation by Government in Freetown. High tension alternating current is generated by Diesel engines and distributed at British standard voltage and periodicity. Charges to consumers are 1s. per unit for lighting, with a favourable decreasing rate of charge to users of domestic appliances, and 4d. per unit for power decreasing to 2d. according to consumption. In certain cases special tariffs have been approved for other than

private consumers, each having a favourable decreasing rate of charge in a manner similar to that for users of domestic appliances. Such special tariffs are based upon the various different average consumptions of current of each consumer.

There is a flat-rate charge for consumers with only three or four lights ranging from 10s. to 19s. per month. A minimum charge of 5s. per month in respect of each connexion was instituted on 1st January, 1937. The distribution scheme covers a wide area and building sites and power are available for industrial development.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Courts of Justice.

The West African Court of Appeal.—This Court has an appellate jurisdiction in both civil and criminal matters, in respect of certain decisions of the Supreme Court of the Colony, and of the Circuit Court of the Protectorate. The Judges of the Court are the Judges of the Supreme Courts of the Gold Coast, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and the Gambia Colony, and the Judges of the High Court of the Protectorate of Nigeria.

The Court sits periodically at Freetown for the hearing of appeals arising in Sierra Leone and the Gambia.

Courts of the Colony.—The following Courts have jurisdiction in the Colony:—

(i) *The Supreme Court (Ordinance No. 39 of 1932).*

(a) The Court consists of a Chief Justice and Puisne Judge, and also of the Chief Justice and every Judge of the Supreme Court of the Gold Coast Colony, the Chief Justice and every Judge of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, and the Judge of the Supreme Court of the Colony of the Gambia.

(b) In its ordinary jurisdiction the Court has all the powers of the High Court of Justice in England, except the Admiralty jurisdiction.

(c) The Court has also a summary jurisdiction in civil causes similar to that of the County Courts in England.

(d) The Court is also a Court of Appeal from any decision, civil or criminal of a Magistrate or District Commissioner.

(ii) *Magistrates' Courts (Cap. 118).*

There are certain Judicial Districts in each of which is established a Magistrate's Court for the summary trial of criminal causes and with power to commit persons for trial before the Supreme Court. These Courts have also jurisdiction in various quasi-criminal causes, which is conferred upon them by sundry Ordinances. Each Court is presided over by a Magistrate or District Commissioner or by two Justices of the Peace.

(iii) *Courts of Requests* (Cap. 43).

These are courts for the trial of civil causes in which the amount involved does not exceed a sum fixed by the Ordinance. There is one Court for each Judicial District. Each Court is presided over by a Magistrate or District Commissioner who in this capacity is styled “ Judge of the Court of Requests,” or by two Commissioners.

Courts of the Protectorate.—The Courts of Law of the Protectorate are as follows:—

(i) *The Circuit Court* (Ordinance No. 40 of 1932).

(a) This Court is constituted by the Chief Justice or Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of the Colony, each of whom, when sitting in this Court, is styled “ the Judge of the Circuit Court.”

(b) With very few exceptions the Court has the same criminal and civil jurisdiction in the Protectorate as the Supreme Court has in the Colony. Divorce and matrimonial causes are, however, specially withdrawn from its jurisdiction.

(c) The Court also hears appeals from decisions of District Commissioners in both criminal and civil causes.

(ii) *Courts of District Commissioners* (Ordinance No. 40 of 1932).

(a) In each district there is a Court constituted by the District Commissioner and known as “ the Court of the District Commissioner ” or “ The District Court.”

A Provincial Commissioner, who is in charge of a group of districts known as a Province, has the same jurisdiction as a District Commissioner in each of those districts. (Ordinance No. 32 of 1933.)

An Assistant District Commissioner has the same jurisdiction as a District Commissioner in the district in which he is stationed, if appointed by the District Commissioner to exercise it. (Ordinance No. 32 of 1933.)

(b) The criminal jurisdiction of these Courts is practically the same as that of the Magistrates’ Courts in the Colony. They can commit persons for trial before the Circuit Court, or, in very rare cases, before the Supreme Court of the Colony. They also possess a civil jurisdiction in most cases up to £50.

(iii) *Courts of Native Chiefs* (Ordinance No. 40 of 1932).

The Courts are composed of native chiefs and have a limited civil and criminal jurisdiction in cases arising exclusively between natives of the Protectorate, other than

persons employed in the Government service. They are subject in all respects to supervision of the District Commissioner who can amend, vary or set aside any of their decisions or sentences.

(iv) *Combined Courts (Ordinance No. 40 of 1932).*

In certain chiefdoms where there is a considerable number of non-natives settled or residing, the Paramount Chief and a non-native appointed by the District Commissioner, subject to confirmation by the Governor, sit as "Joint Judges" to decide petty civil cases arising between non-natives and natives. The orders of this Court may be enforced by the District Commissioner who can review its decision in all cases.

Criminal Cases tried in the Police Magistrate's Court, Freetown, in 1937.

<i>Offences.</i>	<i>Cases reported.</i>	<i>Persons arrested.</i>	<i>Persons convicted.</i>	<i>Persons discharged.</i>	<i>Committed for trial.</i>
Assault and Battery ...	37	113	62	51	—
Harbour Offences ...	25	30	30	—	—
Stowaways ...	—	24	24	—	—
Customs Offences ...	37	37	34	3	—
Housebreaking ...	26	15	7	3	5
Burglary ...	9	5	—	—	5
Larceny ...	374	399	319	76	4
Larceny from Ship ...	7	7	7	—	—
Public Health Offences	78	92	88	4	—
Shopbreaking ...	9	—	—	—	9
Larceny from a Person	36	42	31	11	—
Breach of Immigration Restriction Law ...	3	3	3	—	—
Selling Palm Wine without Licence ...	—	7	5	2	—
Disorderly conduct ...	73	150	120	30	—
Fighting ...	22	44	41	3	—
Drunk ...	12	12	12	—	—
Wounding ...	19	23	14	5	4
Totals ...	767	1,003	797	188	27

Juveniles.

Larceny ...	33	33	33	—	—
Assault and Battery ...	2	2	2	—	—
Throwing Stones ...	3	3	3	—	—
Committing Nuisance...	3	3	3	—	—
Unlawful Possession ...	2	2	2	—	—
Acting as a Guide ...	—	7	7	—	—
Totals ...	43	50	50	—	—

Return of Criminal Cases tried in the Circuit Court during the year 1937.

<i>District.</i>	<i>Number of persons prosecuted.</i>	<i>Number of persons imprisoned.</i>	<i>Number of persons fined or otherwise punished.</i>	<i>Number of persons condemned.</i>	<i>Number of persons discharged.</i>
Bombali ...	4	1	—	—	3
Karene ...	2	2	—	—	—
Kenema ...	1	1	—	—	—
Kailahun ...	1	1	—	—	—
Kono ...	4	2	1	—	1
Koinadugu ...	1	1	—	—	—
Bo ...	1	1	—	—	—
Moyamba ...	3	2	—	—	1
Port Loko ...	9	4	—	—	5
Tonkolili ...	11	5	1	—	5
Pujehun ...	2	1	—	—	1
Bonthe ...	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	39	21	2	—	16

Police.

During the year 1937, the strength of the Police Force was increased by one 1st Class, one 2nd Class and two 3rd Class constables.

Prisons.

There are now twelve prisons administered by the Prisons Department, which have been established as follows:—

Colony.—Freetown, convict and local; Bonthe, local.

Protectorate.—Northern Province, local prisons; Port Loko, Kabala, Makeni, Batkanu, Tonkolili,

Southern Province, local prisons; Kenema, Moyamba, Pujehun, Masanki, Sefadu.

The number of persons committed to the central prison at Freetown during the year 1937 was as follows:—

Males ...	934
Females ...	11
Juvenile adults ...	14
Juvenile offenders ...	—

The total daily average number in custody was 237.

The number of persons committed to the local prisons of the Colony and Protectorate during the year 1937 was:—

Males ...	1,226
Females ...	3

The daily average in custody was 138.361.

Health.—The general health of the prisoners was good. The total number of deaths at all prisons was four, compared with three in 1936.

Industries.—Short-sentence prisoners were employed in the kitchen garden, and on general labouring, quarrying stone, sanitary work and maintaining fruit trees on Government land. Long-sentence prisoners were engaged in the usual industries which consist of rice-milling, tailoring, tarpaulin, and mattress making, bread-making and carpentry.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

The more important Ordinances enacted during 1937 were:—

- The Regulation of Street Trading Ordinance, 1937,
- The Carriage of Goods by Road Ordinance, 1937,
- The Tonkolili Agreement Ordinance, 1937,
- The Tribal Authorities Ordinance, 1937,
- The Chiefdom Tax Ordinance, 1937,
- The Chiefdom Treasuries Ordinance, 1937,
- The Protectorate Courts Jurisdiction (Amendment) Ordinance, 1937,
- The Companies Ordinance, 1937,
- The Sierra Leone Naval Volunteer Force (General Service) Ordinance, 1937,
- The Rural Areas Ordinance, 1937.

The Regulation of Street Trading Ordinance, 1937, gives effect to the recommendations of a Committee appointed by Government to consider the question of regulating and controlling street trading in the City of Freetown. Under the measure, the Governor in Council is empowered, after consultation with the City Council of Freetown, to prohibit the sale or exposure for sale of all goods in any specified street or part of such streets in the Municipal Areas of Freetown, subject to any exceptions which might be contained in the Order. An exemption for hawkers and pedlars from this general prohibition is contained in the Ordinance. A wide rule-making power has also been incorporated in the measure in order to deal with various matters connected with such trading.

The Carriage of Goods by Road Ordinance, 1937, has been enacted in order to control road competition against the Sierra Leone Government Railway. The Railway has been suffering from a serious loss of revenue from competition of this nature in certain areas for some years and it has been found impossible to devise a satisfactory form of control by means of ferry or road tolls or by any alteration in railway rates. A programme of road construction has and is still being carried out in the Protectorate in order to improve communications, and it was essential that Government should have some power to restrict wasteful competition. Certain of the existing roads provided

important facilities for road traffic and deprived the Railway of a considerable amount of freight which it would ordinarily have carried. Similarly, some of the roads which are now under construction or are likely to be constructed in the near future will probably prove exceedingly detrimental to the Railway traffic. The measure has been designed therefore to prohibit the carriage of certain classes of goods and produce along any such roads, with the minimum restriction compatible with the object in view. Certain of these roads and the classes of goods which are prohibited from being carried thereon have been scheduled in the Ordinance and the Governor-in-Council is given general power to alter this schedule. Certain special classes of goods are in any event exempted from the operation of the Ordinance. Power has also been reserved to permit the carriage of scheduled goods over scheduled roads in special circumstances. Legislation to much the same effect exists already in the Gold Coast Colony and in one or two of the East African Dependencies.

The Tonkolili Agreement Ordinance, 1937, was designed to ratify and confirm an Agreement made between the Crown Agents for the Colonies on behalf of the Government of Sierra Leone and the Sierra Leone Development Company, Limited, with a view to regulating the mining of iron ore and other minerals in the Tonkolili area of the Protectorate.

The Tribal Authorities Ordinance, 1937, provides for the organization of chiefdom administration, and marks an important stage in the development of the Protectorate. It provides for the government of natives of the Protectorate through their own chiefs and endeavours to preserve and strengthen the administrative machinery which has been created by the natives themselves and the institutions which have grown out of their own traditions. To a considerable extent it is an enabling measure, providing as it does wide powers for the issue of orders and bye-laws by a Tribal Authority, but at the same time adequate measures are taken to ensure that there shall be no abuse of those powers. Under the measure, Tribal Authorities, to whom the provisions of the Ordinance are applied, will continue to be guided by the District Commissioners but they will in future have a greater measure of self-government. The enactment was based to a very considerable extent on the Native Administration Ordinances of Nigeria and Tanganyika and no special legislative features require individual mention.

The Chiefdom Tax Ordinance, 1937. This enactment is to a considerable extent complementary to the Tribal Authorities Ordinance, 1937, and is therefore an essential part of the scheme whereby it is hoped that Tribal Authorities will, under guidance, be enabled to achieve a certain measure of local government. The Ordinance provides, in those Chiefdoms in which Native

Treasuries have been established, for the imposition of a comprehensive local tax to take the place of any taxes, tributes, customary levies or labour which were formerly received by the Chiefs and other native authorities. The provisions for the assessment, payment and collection of the tax are similar in many respects to those relating to the collection of house tax under Part IV of the Protectorate Ordinance, 1933. The Governor is given a wide discretion to exempt persons from the payment of this tax and an extensive rule making power to carry out the objects of the measure has also been included.

The Chiefdom Treasuries Ordinance, 1937, has been enacted to provide for the establishment, constitution and management of Chiefdom Treasuries in the Protectorate, and is also another measure of native administration reform. The Ordinance provides for the establishment of a treasury for the reception of chiefdom funds in any chiefdom, or, where it is deemed desirable, in any group of chiefdoms. When such a treasury has been established proper accounts of revenue and expenditure will be kept and all accounts will be submitted to audit. The Tribal Authority will be guided and controlled by a District Commissioner.

The Sierra Leone Naval Volunteer Force (General Service) Ordinance, 1937.—This Ordinance, which is supplementary to the Sierra Leone Naval Volunteer Force Ordinance, 1935, has been enacted in consequence of an Order of His Majesty in Council entitled, “The Sierra Leone Naval Defence Order, 1937,” which approved provision being made for the placing at the disposal of His Majesty for general service in the Royal Navy, officers and men of the Sierra Leone Naval Volunteer Force and ships of war maintained by the Colony. This measure now enables the Governor-in-Council to make provision for all the aforesaid matters and it also provides for training the officers and men of the Force outside the territorial waters of the Colony.

The Rural Areas Ordinance, 1937, has been introduced in order to make provision for the better administration of the Colony Peninsula with the exception of that portion of the Colony which is included in the Municipal Area of Freetown. Briefly, the measure makes provision for (a) the division of the Police and Headquarters Judicial Districts of the Colony into Rural Areas, each Rural Area to be administered by a Rural Commissioner acting under the District Commissioner of the district, and also for the subdivision of Rural Areas into Urban Divisions; (b) the establishment of Rural Advisory Committees for each Rural Area and the institution of a form of suffrage for the election of members thereto; (c) the appointment and constitution of a Rural Areas Council which shall have power to take all necessary measures for the health, order and good government of the district, and the establishment of a Rural

Areas Fund; (*d*) the imposition of all necessary taxation; (*e*) the establishment of an Urban Division Fund to provide for special services in Urban Divisions; and (*f*) the regulation of street trading and the erection of buildings, the establishment and maintenance of cemeteries, water supplies, markets, slaughterhouse, etc., and the various other matters for which it is necessary to provide for the purposes of the efficient administration of a local Government Area. The measure replaces the Headmen Ordinance, 1924, and abrogates the provisions of the House Tax (Colony) Ordinance, 1924, in respect of the Freetown Police and Headquarters District.

Protectorate Courts Jurisdiction (Amendment) Ordinance, 1937, is designed to make provision for the better supervision of Native Courts and for the establishment and constitution of Native Appeal Courts. Owing to the multiplicity of minor Courts in the Protectorate Chiefdoms power has been taken in the measure to suppress them when such suppression would cause no hardship.

The Companies Ordinance, 1937, repeals and replaces the Companies Ordinance, 1924, and is designed to bring the law relating to Trading Companies into conformity with recent Imperial legislation and modern Colonial enactments. The law, previously in force, as contained in the Companies Ordinance, 1924, was the law in force in England in 1906. The present measure has been based almost entirely on the Imperial Companies Act of 1929.

XV.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

Banking facilities are afforded by the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, and Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial, and Overseas). The former is established at Freetown (local head office) with a branch at Bonthe (Sherbro) and agencies at the more important trading centres. Barclays Bank is established at Freetown, and has no branches or agencies.

Both banks afford their customers savings bank facilities. In addition there is the Government (Post Office) Savings Bank, controlled from Freetown, with nineteen agencies throughout the Colony and Protectorate. The balance standing to the credit of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank on 31st December, 1937, was £80,601 19s. 2d.

There are no agricultural or co-operative banks. The absence of realizable security and direct ownership properly registered precludes the possibility of the introduction of the former. The co-operative movement has not yet been introduced.

Currency.

The coins current in Sierra Leone are:—

United Kingdom gold, silver, and bronze coins;

West African silver coins, value 2s., 1s., 6d., 3d.;

West African alloy coins value of the same denominations; and

West African nickel-bronze coins of the value of 1d., $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

The United Kingdom coins have been superseded by the West African coins. The West African silver coins authorized by the Sierra Leone and Gambia Coinage Order, 1913, and introduced in that year are being withdrawn from circulation. Other West African coins of mixed metals of the same denominations and of the same weights, and authorised by His Majesty's Order in Council of February, 1920, were introduced in July, 1920, to replace the silver coins.

Gold and silver coins are legal tender up to any amount and copper and nickel-bronze coins up to one shilling.

West African currency notes of the values £5, 20s., 10s., 2s., and 1s., were introduced in 1916 under the Currency Note Ordinance of that year. Currency notes of the value of 20s. and 10s. are now in circulation, the £5, 2s., and 1s. having been withdrawn. A new issue of the West African currency notes of 20s. and 10s. denomination was put into circulation on 1st July, 1928; the old issue notes are being withdrawn.

Weights and Measures.

There has been no addition to the standards and no new legislation relating to the inspection of weights and measures in the Colony.

XVI.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The financial year closed on the 31st December, 1937, showing the financial position of the Colony to be as follows:—

	£	£
Excess of Assets over Liabilities on 1st January, 1937		285,176
Revenue, 1937	1,025,709	
Expenditure, 1937	919,266	
Add Depreciation of Investments	7,734	
	<u>927,000</u>	
Excess of Revenue over Expenditure		<u>98,709</u>
Balance of Assets over Liabilities on 31st December, 1937		383,885

The Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony for the past five years were:—

				Revenue.	Expenditure.
				£	£
1933	...	...	...	655,529	691,686
1934	...	...	...	598,839	603,208
1935	...	...	...	678,978	585,574
1936	...	...	...	969,668	879,370*
1937	...	...	...	1,025,709	919,266

* Includes £208,277 transferred to Reserve Funds.

The funded debt of the Colony on the 31st December, 1937, was £1,718,259 against which the accumulated sinking funds, for its amortization, amounted to £519,461.

Assets.

The assets of the Colony as disclosed in the Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st December, 1937, amounted to £967,718 made up as follows:—

	£
Reserve and surplus Funds invested...	489,971
Other investments	116,159
Stores	16,113
Loans	26,047
Advances	48,691
Cash	270,737

Taxation.

The main heads of taxation from which revenue was derived in 1937 were:—

	£
Customs	598,397
Port, Harbour and Lighthouse dues ...	17,506
Licences and Internal Revenue ...	44,324
Taxes	279,868

Customs Tariff Imports.

Preferential duties were introduced in Sierra Leone in May, 1932, and quotas on imports of textiles from foreign countries were imposed as from the 16th June, 1934. There are no treaty obligations. The tariff is mainly specific. All edible provisions and articles ordinarily used for human consumption, not specifically mentioned in the tariff, however, pay an *ad valorem* duty of 10 per cent. (Preferential) and 25 per cent. (General). On all goods, wares and merchandise not included in any item in the tariff an *ad valorem* duty is levied of 20 per cent. (Preferential) and 40 per cent. (General).

Some of the more important duties levied on imported goods are: cotton piece-goods—bleached, 1d. per sq. yd. (Preferential) and 2d. per sq. yd. (General); coloured and dyed, 1½d. per

sq. yd. (Preferential) and 3d. per sq. yd. (General); grey $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per sq. yd. (Preferential) and $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per sq. yd. (General) and printed, $1\frac{1}{4}$ d. per sq. yd. (Preferential) and $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. per sq. yd. (General). Cotton yarn, 3d. per lb. (Preferential) and 6d. per lb. (General); fish, canned or otherwise preserved, 6s. 3d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 12s. 6d. per 100 lb. (General); fish—dried, salted, smoked or pickled, not in tins, jars or bottles, 2s. 6d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 5s. per 100 lb. (General); flour, free (Preferential) and 1s. per 100 lb. (General); lard 8s. 4d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 16s. 8d. per 100 lb. (General); matches, 1s. 6d. per gross of boxes (Preferential) and 3s. 6d. per gross of boxes (General); meat, canned or bottled, 10s. 5d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and £1 os. 10d. per 100 lb. (General); milk, condensed or otherwise preserved, free (Preferential) and 4s. per 36 lb. (General); kerosene, 7d. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and 9d. per imperial gallon (General); motor spirit, 8d. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and 11d. per imperial gallon (General); edible oil, 2d. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and 8d. per imperial gallon (General); onions, free (Preferential) and $\frac{1}{4}$ d. (General); potatoes, $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. (Preferential) and $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. (General); table salt, 1s. 8d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and 3s. 4d. per 100 lb. (General); coarse salt, 1s. per cwt. (Preferential) and 2s. 9d. per cwt. (General); artificial silk piece-goods, 2d. per sq. yd. (Preferential) and 6d. per sq. yd. (General); silk piece-goods, 1s. 6d. per lb. (Preferential) and 4s. 6d. per lb. (General); toilet soap, 12s. 6d. per 100 lb. (Preferential) and £1 5s. per 100 lb. (General); soap, other kinds, 7s. 6d. per cwt. (Preferential) and 15s. per cwt. (General).

On spirits (50 per cent. volume of alcohol) duty is levied at the rate of £1 13s. 6d. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and £1 16s. per imperial gallon (General), and on wines (still), 3s. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and 6s. per imperial gallon (General). Beer and ale, stout and porter pay at 1s. 6d. per imperial gallon (Preferential) and 3s. per imperial gallon (General).

Unmanufactured tobacco is subject to a duty of 1s. 4d. per lb. (Preferential) and 1s. 8d. per lb. (General); manufactured tobacco pays from 6s. 6d. per lb. (Preferential) to 8s. 8d. per lb. (General) and cigarettes from 1s. 6d. per 100 (Preferential) to 2s. 6d. per 100 (General). The duty leviable on lumber is 15s. per 1,000 superficial feet (Preferential) and £1 10s. per 1,000 superficial feet (General).

Export Duties.

The following exports are subject to duty:—palm kernels, £1 a ton; kola nuts, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. a lb.

Royalties.

The following royalties are levied on minerals exported from the Colony: on chromite, 1s. 3d. per ton; on ilmenite, 1s. per ton; on platinum, 5 per cent. on the value; on crude gold, 9 per cent. on the ascertained value of the combined gold and silver content of the crude metal as shown by the refiner's certificate.

Drawbacks.

The usual provision is made for payment of drawback, 95 per cent. of duties paid on imported goods being allowed.

Wines, spirits, petroleum products, tobacco, arms and ammunition, gunpowder, West African products (excluding Liberian coffee) and manufactures, potatoes, onions and rice are excluded from this benefit.

Excise and Stamp Duties.

Under a Stamp Duty Ordinance, stamp duties are levied on cheques, bills of exchange, deeds, legal documents, probates, etc. The aggregate collections in 1937 amounted to £1,052.

There are no Excise duties, but revenue is derived from Licences, as follows:—

Auctioneers, hawkers, spirits, store, wine and beer, petroleum, motor vehicles, dog and game licences, etc.

Pawnbroker, bicycle, showkeepers and hotel licences, etc., are levied by the Freetown City Council.

House Tax.

A house tax of five shillings per house is levied throughout the Protectorate and yields approximately £80,000 annually. The District Commissioners control the collections in the various chiefdoms, but the native chiefs are responsible and receive a remuneration of 5 per cent. on such collections. The assessment is made biennially or triennially by Assistant District Commissioners as occasion arises, aided by the Paramount Chiefs. House Tax in Freetown and Sherbro Judicial District is assessed on the value of the property and varies in different years. House Tax in the remainder of Colony villages is at a fixed rate of five shillings per house.

Poll Tax.

Under the Non-native Poll Tax Ordinance every non-native is required to pay an annual tax of £4.

XVII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Surveys.

Topographical Survey.—No funds or staff were available for topographical surveys during the year. The position as regards the Topographical Survey of the Protectorate that was completed in 1931 and which comprises 109 field sheets on the 1/62,500 scale remains the same as before. Only 45 of the sheets have been printed and published. The remaining 64 sheets are reproduced and issued in sunprint form. There was an exceptional demand for unpublished sheets and although 168 copies were supplied against 105 for last year, orders for over 400 sunprint copies were outstanding at the end of the year. A new layout map of Sierra Leone on the 1/100,000 scale is in course of preparation.

Cadastral Survey.—The number of mining surveys executed exceeded that for the previous year. One hundred and fifty-eight surveys comprising 136 Mining Rights, 10 Exclusive Prospecting Licences and 2 Mining Leases were completed. In connexion with this work 108 miles of theodolite traverse were run, 1,568 beacons co-ordinated and 68 azimuths observed. The area covered by this work amounted to 19,842 acres against 20,766 for 1936, the smaller acreage being due to the greater number of Mining Rights in proportion to the total applications surveyed. The number of outstanding surveys at the end of the year was 102 against 219 for the previous year.

The main triangulation of the Colony was broken down over an area of about 20 square miles around Regent and Bathurst and eight new trig points established to provide the Public Works Department with a framework for surveys in connexion with the "New Freetown Water Supply". Five miles of levelling was done by the department in connexion with this water supply.

A theodolite survey of about 200 acres of land, over which action under the Unoccupied Lands Ordinance was subsequently taken by the Lands Branch, was completed at Benguema.

An extension of the Freetown Town Survey which was completed in 1927 was asked for by the Government to enable steps to be taken to ensure the orderly development of the rapidly expanding building areas, south and south-west of the city by town planning. Five new sheets on the 1/1,250 scale were taken up in July. By the end of the year two of them were completed with levels and the remaining three were in various stages of completion.

A detailed contoured survey on the 1/1,250 scale of the Congo River Valley was commenced in October to ascertain whether a new road to form a short cut to Hill Station was a practical

proposition and to provide plans for a layout scheme of building plots for commercial firms. This survey which will cover an area of nearly two square miles was nearly completed by the end of the year.

An area adjoining Murray Town was contoured and a plan of a proposed lay-out scheme prepared for the extension of the village.

Lands Branch.—All the usual business in connexion with grants, acquisitions, valuations, leases, preparation of tenancy agreements, collection of rents, beaconing of Crown Lands, etc., has been carried out.

General.—The value of maps supplied to Government departments during the year amounted to £112 6s. 6d. Sale of maps to the public realized £61 12s. 6d. Revenue from mining surveys amounted to £3,299 11s. 0d.

Geological Survey.—Further progress was made in the geological survey of the mining areas of the Protectorate on the scale 1/62,500, and it is hoped soon to be able to publish geological maps of some of the more interesting localities. Some reconnaissance geological survey was carried out in the Northern Province. Numerous rock and mineral specimens were identified and reported upon for the mining community. A petrological microscope and rock cutting and grinding apparatus were purchased and a commencement was made in the preparation in Sierra Leone of thin sections of rock and mineral specimens for their identification under the petrological microscope. The officer in charge of the geological survey was seconded to the Provincial Administration during a temporary shortage of officers of that department and acted as District Commissioner, Bombali, from June to November, 1937.

Imperial Institute.

During 1937 information was furnished to enquirers regarding oil palm fibre suitable for making special grades of paper; sources of supply of piassava fibre; preparation of the essential oil of limes by hand-pressing (écuellling) and by distillation; the commercial valuation of mangrove bark and the geographical features, climatic conditions and economic possibilities of Sierra Leone. Information was also supplied concerning the following minerals: iron ore, ilmenite, diamonds and bauxite.

Two new dioramas, constructed in the Imperial Institute studios were completed and placed on exhibition: one illustrating iron ore mining and the other showing alluvial diamond mining.

The show-cases and exhibits have been rearranged; statistical charts relating to trade in the principal export products have been brought up to date.

APPENDIX.

List of certain Publications obtainable from the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, Westminster, London, S.W.1, and from the Government Printer, George Street, Freetown.

							<i>Revised Rates for Gazettes and Legislation.</i>		
							£	s.	d.
<i>Royal Gazette</i> , inclusive of all Supplements ; Annual Subscription,									
inland	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	0
<i>Royal Gazette</i> , inclusive of all Supplements ; Annual Subscription,									
Overseas	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	10	0
							<i>For current or previous year.</i>		
							<i>For any prior year</i>		
							s.	d.	s. d.
<i>Royal Gazette</i> , single copies, inclusive of " <i>Special Supplements</i> " only							6		1 0
Trade Supplement (postage 1d. extra)							3		6
Legislative Supplements, or separate copies of Ordinances, Rules, &c., not exceeding—									
8 pages	...	...	...	...	...	...	4		8
9-16 „	...	...	...	...	...	...	6		1 0
17-32 „	...	...	...	...	...	...	9		1 6
33-48 „	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 3		2 6
49-64 „	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 6		3 0
65-96 „	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 0		4 0
Exceeding 96 pages	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 6		5 0

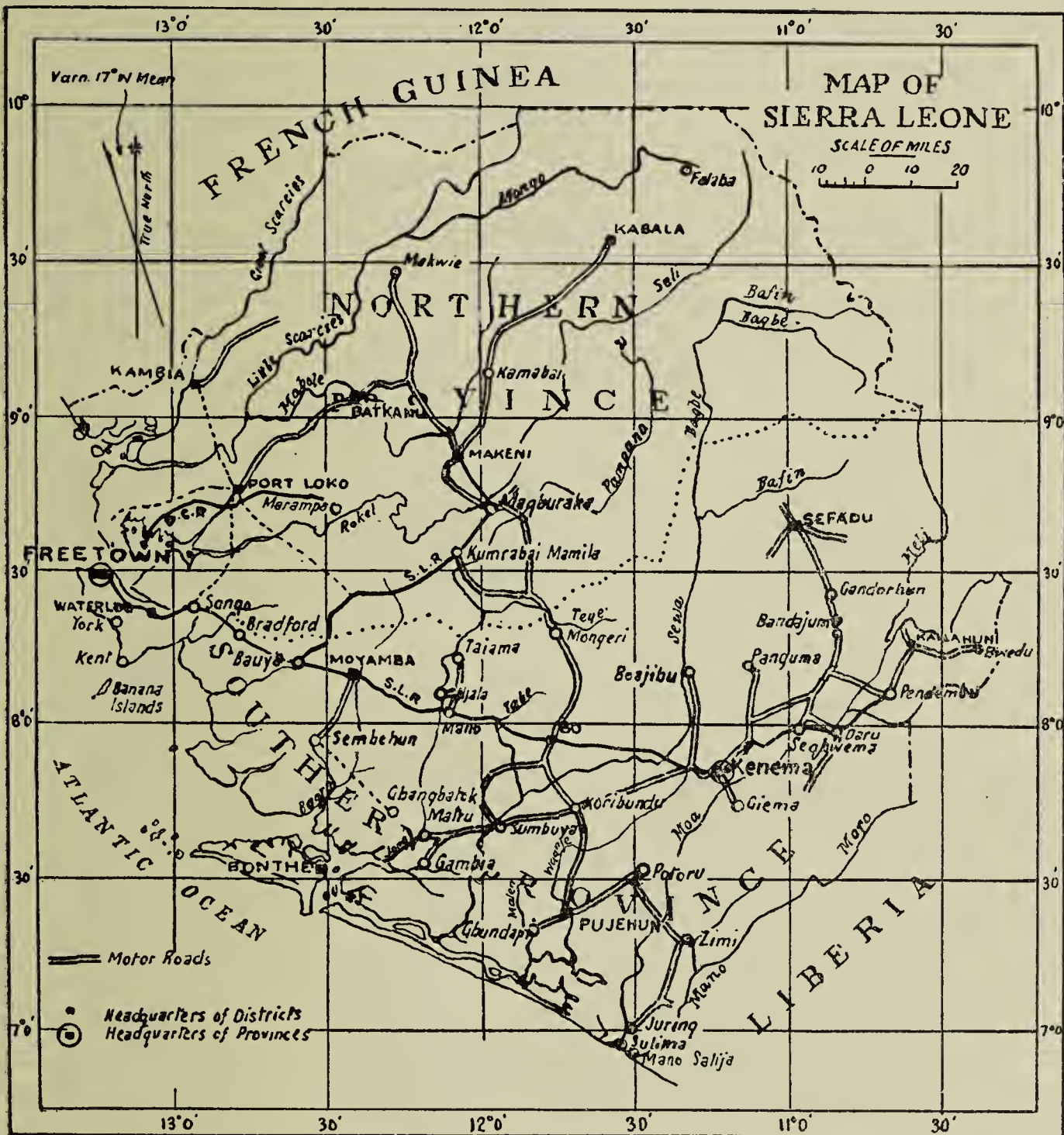
Including postage.

The foregoing rates will apply to all Supplements or Legislation already in stock, regardless of any price printed thereon.

		<i>Price.</i>			<i>Postage.</i>		
		£	s.	d.	s.	d.	
Blue Book, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928 each	...	12	6		1	4	
Blue Book, 1929, 1930, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936 each	...	12	6		1	2	
Legislative Council Debates—No. 1 of any year	...	1	6			2½	
Legislative Council Debates—Subsequent numbers, each	...			6		2	
Sierra Leone Studies (abridged edition of Nos. 1, 2, 3)	...	1	0			2	
Sierra Leone Studies, Nos. 7-18 and 20, each	...	1	0			2	
Handbook of the Temne Language	...	5	0			3½	
Handbook of the Sherbro Language	...	10	6			3	
Handbook on the Tse-tse Fly (Austen)	...	5	0			6	
Bibliography of Sierra Leone, by Sir H. C. Luke, Kt.	...	8	6			4	
Beri-beri and the Freetown Prison	...	10	6			6	
The Birds of Tropical West Africa, Vols. 1 & 4, by D. A. Bannerman	...	1	2	6	1	0	

	<i>Price.</i>			<i>Postage.</i>		
	£	s.	d.	s.	d.	
Report on Potential Rice Lands, by R. R. Glanville	2	6				1½
Census Report, 1931	5	0				6
Tide Table, 1938		4				1
Sierra Leone Country Cloths, by Dr. M. C. F. Easmon	1	0				2
Introduction to Geography of Sierra Leone ...	1	4				2
History of Royal West African Frontier Force, by Lieut. R. P. M. Davis	7	6				2½
A Limba-English and English-Limba Dictionary, by Mary Lane Clarke	5	0				4
Crook's History of the Colony of Sierra Leone, Western Africa	1	6				4
Specimen of Languages, by N. W. Thomas ...	4	0				3
Report of the Native Administration to the Protec- torate of Sierra Leone, by Mr. J. S. Fenton, O.B.E.	1	6				1
Customs Trade Report, 1936	5	0				5

SIERRA LEONE SURVEY



NOTE.—The Headquarters of the Northern Province are at Freetow

Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

CONFERENCE OF COLONIAL DIRECTORS OF AGRICULTURE, JULY, 1938

Report and Proceedings

[Colonial No. 156] 2s. ()

THE FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC POSITION OF NORTHERN RHODESIA

Report of the Commission

[Colonial No. 145] 7s. (7s. 6d.)

LABOUR CONDITIONS IN NORTHERN RHODESIA

Report by Major G. St. J. Orde Browne, O.B.E.

[Colonial No. 150] 2s. (2s. 3d.)

NYASALAND. FINANCIAL POSITION AND FURTHER DEVELOP- MENT

Report of Commission

[Colonial No. 152] 10s. (10s. 6d.)

PITCAIRN ISLAND

Reports by Mr. J. S. Neill and Duncan Cook, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

[Colonial No. 155] 1s. 3d. (1s. 5d.)

THE SYSTEM OF APPOINTMENT IN THE COLONIAL OFFICE AND THE COLONIAL SERVICES

Report of Committee

[Cmd. 3554 (1930)] 1s. (1s. 1d.)

LEAVE AND PASSAGE CONDITIONS FOR THE COLONIAL SERVICE

Report of Committee

[Cmd. 4730 (1934)] 9d. (10d.)

PENSIONS TO WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF OFFICERS IN THE COLONIAL SERVICE, AND COLONIAL PROVIDENT FUNDS

Report of Committee

[Cmd. 5219] 1s. (1s. 1d.)

Lists are issued showing schedules of Offices in the following Colonial Services with the names and brief biographical records of the holders. Each list includes the Special Regulations by the Secretary of State relating to the Service concerned :—

Colonial Administrative Service List	[Colonial No. 147] 2s. 6d. (2s. 8d.)
Colonial Agricultural Service List	[Colonial No. 157] 1s. 3d. (1s. 5d.)
Colonial Forest Service List	[Colonial No. 122] 6d. (7d.)
Colonial Legal Service List	[Colonial No. 158] 9d. (10d.)
Colonial Medical Service List	[Colonial No. 159] 1s. 3d. (1s. 5d.)
Colonial Veterinary Service List	[Colonial No. 132] 6d. (7d.)

All prices are net. Those in brackets include postage

Obtainable from

HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

LONDON, W.C.2 : York House, Kingsway

EDINBURGH : 2 : 120, George Street

MANCHESTER : 1 : 26, York Street

CARDIFF : 1, St. Andrew's Crescent

BELFAST : 80, Chichester Street

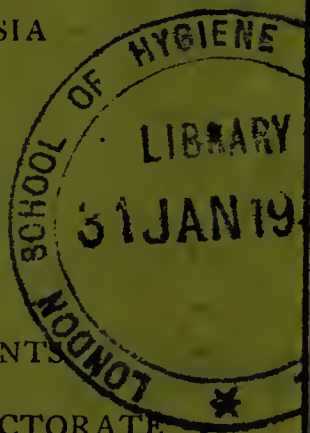
or through any bookseller

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on the Social and Economic Progress of the Peoples of the Colonies and Protectorates, most of which contain a map of the Dependency concerned. More than 40 Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the Subscription price of 50s. per annum. (This rate does not include Mandated Territories.) Individual Reports may also be purchased and standing orders placed for their annual supply

BAHAMAS
BARBADOS
BERMUDA
BRITISH GUIANA
BRITISH HONDURAS
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS
PROTECTORATE
BRUNEI, STATE OF
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA)
CEYLON
CYPRUS
FALKLAND ISLANDS
FEDERATED MALAY STATES
FIJI
THE GAMBIA
GIBRALTAR
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS
GOLD COAST
GRENADA
HONG KONG
JAMAICA
JOHORE
KEDAH
KELANTAN

KENYA COLONY &
PROTECTORATE
LEEWARD ISLANDS
MAURITIUS
NEW HEBRIDES
NIGERIA
NORTHERN RHODESIA
NYASALAND
PERLIS
ST. HELENA
ST. LUCIA
ST. VINCENT
SEYCHELLES
SIERRA LEONE
SOMALILAND
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS
TONGAN ISLANDS
PROTECTORATE
TRENGGANU
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS
UGANDA
ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE



BASUTOLAND
BECHUANALAND
PROTECTORATE

SWAZILAND

MANDATED TERRITORIES

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations

PALESTINE AND TRANS-JORDAN
TANGANYIKA TERRITORY

CAMEROONS under British Mandate
TOGOLAND under British Mandate

*Further particulars as to the latest reports and prices are obtainable
from the Sale Offices of*

HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates, and Mandated Territories can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.